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LD2712133588 [Editorial Report]

Libya

The Arab League held an emergency meeting in Tunisia in which Secretary General Chedli Klibi stressed the "full solidarity" of the Arab countries with Libya in the face of the "U.S. threats to launch an aggressive action against Libyan soil," Tunis radio reported.

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi announced that Libya will "retaliate very strongly" to any hostile act against the pharmaceutical factory the United States alleges is for the production of chemical weapons, JANA reported.

Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf told a press conference that the PLO will fight with the Libyan people if the United States launches an attack on the chemical factory, KUNA reported.

A "high-ranking" member of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison cited by WAKH called for a dialogue between the United States and Libya to resolve their problems, since U.S. "threats" and "military means" have failed.

Further Reaction to Pan Am Plane Crash

The Libyan People's Bureau in Rome discounted an anonymous accusation that a Libyan organization planted a bomb on the Pan Am plane that crashed in Scotland as the work of a "madman," the Italian press agency reported.

In Lebanon, Hizballah spiritual leader Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah denounced the downing of the U.S. Pan Am jet, and said he believes Israel had a hand in it, according to the clandestine Voice of the Oppressed radio.

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat called the crash a criminal act "targeting the PLO's peace endeavors," Amman television reported.

The PLO representative in Bonn said the PLO wants to help in the search for the cause of the plane crash, adding he does not beleive either Abu Nidal or the Guardians of the Islamic Revolution perpetrated the attack, according to West German television.

Lebanon

Hostage Release Promised—The Fatah Revolutionary Council led by Sabri al-Banna, also known as Abu Nidal, announced 26 December that two French girls who have been held for over a year would arrive in Paris "in the next few hours," Voice of Lebanon radio reported.

A Fatah Revolutionary Council spokesman disclosed that the girls, who were captured along with their mother and a group of five Belgians in the eastern Mediterranean Sea last year, were still in Lebanon 27 December, AFP reported.

The group failed to release the girls after a similar announcement 24 December, according to AFP.

The press agency noted that the decision to free them was in response to an appeal for their release by Libyan leader Al-Qadhdhafi reported by JANA.

Amal-Palestinian Agreement—Leaders of the Nasirite Popular Organization and the Amal Movement met in Sidon 23 December to discuss terms for peace, Beirut radio reported.

The terms include a comprehensive cease-fire, a halt to raids and detentions, renovation of camps, and reopening of roads in south Lebanon.

Meanwhile, a senior official of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) was killed in Sidon, according to a DFLP communique cited by AFP which said the killing was a result of the peace agreement.

Palestinian Affairs

The PLO Executive Committee issued a statement at the end of 3 days of meetings in Baghdad rejecting the "Israeli maneuver" to conduct elections in the territories, INA reported.

The formation of a legal committee to plan a provisional government and bylaws was approved, as was a plan to confront the "recent Zionist escalation" and the use of weapons against the uprising in Nabulus.

It was also decided that PLO offices in countries that have recognized the State of Palestine will be turned into embassies.

PLO leader 'Arafat said in an interview with West Germany's DER SPIEGEL that he expects "terrorist, sabotage, and criminal acts" from the Israeli intelligence organization Mosad, as well as assassinations of PLO leaders, Kuwait's AL-QABUS reported.

'Arafat also rejected the idea of Palestinian disarmament, unless the Israeli army is disarmed as well.

Israel

Shamir Peace Initiative—Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is formulating a peace initiative based on the Camp David accords, the director general of the prime minister's office disclosed in an interview with MA'ARIV.

The peace initiative will start with negotiations to determine autonomy arrangements for the territories and will include Jordan and a Palestinian delegation "assisted by Egypt."

Shamir may also ask the United States and the USSR to sponsor Middle East peace talks as part of his initiative, Jerusalem television noted.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens told the West German magazine STERN that only "limited Palestinian autonomy" is conceivable and he reaffimed his government's rejection of direct negotiations with the PLO, according to DPA.

Ties With Egypt—Shamir said in an interview on Jerusalem television that he would be "very happy" to receive Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

The comment was in response to Mubarak's announcement that he is ready to travel to Israel if such a visit will lead to resolving the Palestinian issue and establishing a "just peace."

Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres also welcomed Mubarak's remarks, noting that there should not be any preconditions for such talks, Jerusalem radio reported.

Violence in Territories—One Palestinian was killed and at least 21 others were wounded in clashes with the IDF between 24 and 26 December, THE JERUSALEM POST reported.

Two West Bank residents were killed and three others injured while handling "a suspicious object" and another man died of injuries sustained in earlier disturbances in Nabulus, Jerusalem television reported.

Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin announced that the results of investigations of the 16 December rioting in Nabulus in which eight Palestinians were killed showed that the IDF acted "properly and in accordance with the regulations," Jerusalem radio reported.

Syria

"Informed and reliable diplomatic sources" cited by the UAE paper AL-ITTIHAD said Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will attend any Arab summit that Egyptian President Mubarak attends because of the "crucial decisions" that would be made at such a summit, Abu Dhabi radio reported.

A Damascus radio commentary said Al-Asad has opened the door for reestablishing ties with Egypt and does not blame Mubarak for the actions and policies of former President Anwar al-Sadat.

A "senior" Egyptian official cited by WAKH viewed the Damascus radio commentary as "a positive and good gesture."

Al-Asad is also prepared to speed reconciliation with Iraq, according to the UAE paper AL-BAYAN.

A lawyer who met with Al-Asad as part of a delegation of the Arab Lawyers Union said he expects Al-Asad to "embark soon" on a path to show Syria's good intentions regarding Iraq.

He also said Al-Asad asserted he is not considering a military option in Lebanon and flights between Damascus and Cairo will resume "very soon."

Afghanistan

Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov and former King Zahir Shah met in Rome 24 December, Kabul radio reported.

The office of President Najibullah issued a statement on the radio expressing its belief that the former king can play a useful role in restoring peace in Afghanistan and ensuring the success of talks among "all political forces" in Afghanistan.

Mujahidin leader Gulbuddin Hikmatyar criticized the meeting and accused the Soviet Union of trying to "widen the gap of dissension" among the seven-party Afghan resistance alliance, XINHUA reported. Alliance leader Burhanuddin Rabbani decided to postpone talks with Vorontsov scheduled for 25 December until the 1st week of January, the press agency noted.

Rabbani traveled to Iran 24 December where he met members of the eight-party mujahidin coalition based there and several Iranian leaders, including President 'Ali Khamene'i, who stressed the need for greater solidarity among all Afghan factions and warned against U.S. interference in Afghan affairs, IRNA reported.

During his Friday prayers sermon broadcast by Tehran radio 23 December, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani condemned the United States for attempting to "kindle discord" among the various parties of the Afghan mujahidin and he expressed Iran's support for both Sunni and Shi'ite groups, which he said must work together.

In another development, five Afghan government militia commanders were sentenced to death for "abandoning their men" during fighting in Nangarhar Province, XINHUA reported.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Concerned Over U.S. Threats on Libya

LD2612162988 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Text] The Arab League Council, which is currently holding an emergency session in Tunisia, has issued a statement in which it expresses concern over U.S. threats against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah on the pretext of possessing chemical weapons.

The statement stresses in particular the full commitment of Arab countries to international charters and resolutions. The statement indicates that Israel brought destructive and internationally banned arms to the region, among them chemical and nuclear weapons, and that Israel was the country to use chemical weapons when it attacked southern Lebanon and the Palestinian people and its heroic uprising.

The statement considers U.S. threats as representing an element of tension that damages international harmony and peace, which Arab countries are eager to support and bolster.

The statement renewed the support of the Arab League for the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and warned against the consequences of aggression against it, which could have extremely serious repercussions with regard to the region and Arab-U.S. relations.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat: Pan Am Crash Targeted 'Peace Endeavors'

JN2312195088 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Dec 88

[Excerpts] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat met with Italian Prime Minister Ciriaco de Mita and a number of senior Italian officials in Rome today.

At the end of the meeting, 'Arafat called upon the United Nations to maintain the initiative in helping to convene an international peace conference.

A statement issued by the Italian Government following the meeting, which was attended by Italian Foreign Affairs Minister Giulio Andreotti, said 'Arafat affirmed to the Italian prime minister the need to see the world body play a role in advancing peace efforts and preparing for the convening of an international conference.

In its statement, the Italian Government affirmed its support for such an initiative and said it will brief the EC members and other Western states on the content of the talks with Yasir 'Arafat in Rome. [passage omitted]

Following the meeting, 'Arafat headed for the Vatican, where he met with His Holiness Pope John Paul II. [passage omitted]

At the end of the talks, 'Arafat held a news conference in which he spoke on the objectives of his peace moves at the current phase and said the incident involving the crash of the American plane is an inhuman, criminal act targeting the PLO's peace endeavors.

Denounces Downing of Plane

JN2412073088 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 24 Dec 88

[Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left Rome last night. It is believed he is heading for Baghdad where he will today chair a PLO Executive Committee meeting during which the subject of forming a Palestinian government-in-exile and establishing the constitutional, administrative, and organizational institutions of the Palestinian state will be particularly discussed.

Before leaving Rome, where he met with Italian Prime Minister Ciriaco de Mita and His Holiness Pope John Paul II in the Vatican, Yasir 'Arafat held a news conference in which he again called on Israel to embark on dialogue, stressing that peace for the Palestinians is a strategic option and not a tactical issue. The PLO chairman said he had earlier invited the Israelis to talk and will continue to call for the establishment of peace.

Commenting on the establishment of a coalition government in Israel by the Likud and Labor Parties, he said: Regrettably, there is a government of war in Israel today. This government says no to peace, no to the international conference, no to the Palestinian state, and yes to settlements in the occupied territories. 'Arafat said peace requires courage and Israel needs a man like General de Gaulle to attain peace. If no man like De Gaulle is found, he added, let it search for a man like Ian Smith.

In his news conference, Yasir 'Arafat thanked Pope John Paul II, who, he said, gave him the opportunity to brief him on the atrocities being perpetrated against the Palestinian people. He said he asked his holiness to pray for the Palestinian people and for the prevalence of peace in Palestine and the holy land.

'Arafat also thanked the Italian Government and termed his talks with the Italian officials as positive, constructive, and important. He expressed satisfaction with his visit to Rome during the Christmas period despite his sadness that the Palestinian people in the occupied territories will not celebrate Christmas this year due to the iron-fist policy being applied by the occupation authorities and settlers against the innocent Palestinian people.

At the conclusion of his news conference, 'Arafat denounced the assumed attack on the U.S. Boeing plane and stressed that the PLO supports the international efforts aimed at ending such criminal acts. 'Arafat was surprised that initial rumors on this assumed attack

mentioned Palestinians. He said the information available to him confirms the Israeli intelligence organs received government instructions to carry out any act to sabotage the peace process.

'Arafat Comments on Talks With U.S., Terrorism

JN2412201288 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic
23 Dec 88 p 19

[From 'Adil Ilyas in Vienna; all quotation marks as published]

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has given an exclusive interview to DER SPIEGEL magazine. AL-QABAS publishes the interview with the German magazine. The interview took place in Vienna during 'Arafat's recent visit to Austria.

In the interview, 'Arafat categorically denies that he gave in to the U.S. preconditions and demands. He says: "This is ridiculous. I have not changed my policy; what has changed is the U.S. policy." He adds: "I myself declared 5 years ago my approval of Resolution 242 and called for convening an international conference to resolve the Palestine question. Since then, I have been reiterating this stand. So, I adopted this stand in 1983. Every person could hear my statements and stands."

He explains the U.S. change and acceptance to hold a dialogue with the PLO by saying: "The whole world has seen and realized that the U.S. stand is completely biased toward Israel. The world cannot accept this stand. The world's rejection of the U.S. policy reached its peak when Washington refused to grant me an entry visa to address the UN General Assembly."

'Arafat refutes the reasons the United States declared for not granting him a visa on the pretext he was involved in terrorism and terrorist acts. He replies to Washington, saying: "I am not wanted by Interpol like Israeli Prime Minister Shamir. It is not me who fires at children, women, and civilans in the same way hunters fire at rabbits. The side that did this was the Israeli Government. I was not responsible for aborting 3,400 Palestinian women as a result of using tear gas against civilian Palestinians in the occupied territories."

He says: "The reason behind the change in U.S. policy was undoubtedly the stand of 154 states in the world, which are UN member states, that called for moving the UN General Assembly meetings to Geneva. These states have demanded that the world should listen to the Palestinians. This is what forced the United States to change its stand."

He stresses that he did not submit to U.S. pressures and conditions and that what he said before the UN General Assembly on Tuesday was the same thing he said at his news conference in Geneva on Wednesday. He says: "I believe that the reason behind the change that took place in the U.S. stand in 24 hours is the presence of two powers in the U.S. Administration: A power that opposes us and another that says that it is enough and that it is necessary to go back on this clumsy policy. It seems that the latter was able to impose its policy on the former."

'Arafat refuses to disclose the specific details of the talks, contacts, and negotiations between the PLO and Washington. He says: "I do not have the right to disclose them, because this also belongs to the other party. However, the world will one day realize this and know the details. I can say that many sides have contributed to the success of contacts between us and the Americans and to convincing them to change their stand, such as Egypt, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia. Of course, the Swedish foreign minister played an important and significant role in this."

'Arafat rejects the suggestion that Washington's refusal to grant him an entry visa to the United States produced an amendment to his speech or a softening of his position in Geneva.

He says: "Had I gone to New York, I would have made verbatim the very same speech I made in Geneva. The Geneva speech was drafted by three PLO ad hoc committees and charted by the PLO Executive Committee. I gave the speech—an expression and confirmation of the last PNC session in Algiers—in my capacity as chairman of the PLO. When I applied for an entry visa on 4 November through the UN Secretariat, Washington must surely have known about the drift of my speech and still rejected the application."

'Arafat dismisses the suggestion he felt affronted by the U.S. refusal to allow him to go to New York, saying: "I do not see it as a personal insult. I am fighting and struggling for a cause, people, and principle. The United Nations responded to this American rudeness. It is the first time in the history of the United Nations that the world body decided to hold its meetings on the Palestinian question in Geneva rather than in New York. I look on this UN decision as a victory for right and justice."

'Arafat reiterates his definition of terror and terrorist actions by saying: "I denounce terrror in all its forms—individual, group, or state terrorism. It is now common knowledge that whichever individual or group fails to abide by this obligation on our part shall be expelled from the PLO ranks."

Answering another question, he says:

"A distinction must be drawn between terror as a crime and armed struggle and armed resistance against occupation. In light of clear pertinent UN resolutions that grant the right of resistance by those under occupation using all available means, Palestinian resistance and the uprising are legitimate, impeccable excercises sanctioned by international bodies. We have every right to resort to all means at our disposable against Israeli occupation. The United Nations has repeatedly declared Israel to be an occupying

power and called for evacuation of the occupied land by Israel. All the same, I have ordered that no firearms be used in the uprising and this position still obtains."

In response to Israel's absurdities that the uprising—that is, throwing stones at soldiers and setting fire to car tires—is terrorism, Yasir 'Arafat asks: "Does Israel think the world will believe its lies in which it accuses the uprising of terrorism? Does Israel really believe our people will remain silent over occupation and not resist it and remain living like hired slaves?"

In the interview, Yasir 'Arafat asserts that "the struggle of the Palestinian resistance is limited to Israeli Army military targets, not civilians. He also asserts he denounces all acts of violence that result in civilian casualties and that the world must not forget that up to now Israeli Army soldiers are firing at unarmed civilian Palestinians—children, women, and old people."

'Arafat says:

"We denounce terrorism because we, Palestinians, are victims of Israeli terrorism. Since the beginning of the uprising we have lost over 547 martyrs and more than 19,000 injured, including 4,700 of whom are suffering permanent deformation or paralysis after being beaten up or fired at, in addition to 28,000 detainees, whose number exceed more than 1.5 million people. Is this not terrorism? It also killed my brother and deputy Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir]. Is this not terrorism? And the savage Israeli air force raid against the headquarters and offices of the PLO in Tunis and the killing of Tunisian civilians, is this not terrorism? Cutting off our people's water supply in the occupied territories, preventing us from drilling water wells while allowing only the Zionist settlers to do so, and imposing measures to prevent the delivery of money to our people, is this not terrorism?"

'Arafat adds: "They want to starve us and cut off our water supply. It is an occupation that prevents us from having a glass of water. They want us without schools or universities. More than a year ago, these measures, which exceed the Nazis' savage measures, were declared. They are punishable by Nuremberg, which were issued against those who practice these fascist methods. They want to annihiliate the Palestinian people. Is this not terrorism?"

In his interview, Yasir 'Arafat says that he does not expect terrorist acts from Arab extremists to destroy his current policy. He says: "On the contrary. What I expect is terrorist, sabotage, and criminal acts from the Israeli Mosad intelligence. I expect assassinations of our leaders and officials. I think Israel will increase its terrorism and savagery in its occupation of the occupied territories. A few days ago, a child less than 11 years old was killed in Nabulus. Shamir has given his clear and frank orders to the Israeli army to kill without consideration for human principles and ethics. It is a clear order for murder and crime."

Answering a question on the meaning of recognizing Israel's right to exist, 'Arafat says:

"My recognition of Israel's right to exist is based on UN Resolution No 181 of 1947, despite the fact that from historical and moral standpoints this resolution was obviously unjust to our people and homeland. This resolution stipulates the establishment of two states on Palestinian territory, one Jewish and one for the Palestinian Arabs. Now I ask: Why do the United States and certain Western European states, especially the FRG, recognize only half of the abovementioned resolution—that is, Israel's right to exist—and do not recognize the other half—namely, the right of a Palestinian Arab state to exist on Palestinian territory? They say Israel's existence is legitimized by Resolution No 181, but the resolution stipulates the establishment of two states, not one. Whoever recognizes Israel's right to exist in accordance with this resolution cannot deny a Palestinian state the right to exist."

'Arafat assails Israel, which says that the Palestine National Charter continues to demand the removal of the Zionist entity by armed struggle. He says: "The history of Zionism is a black history. Several years ago it was written on the door of the Israeli Knesset: O Israel, your borders extend from the River Euphrates to the River Nile. The two blue bands on the Israeli flag itself are symbols of the Nile and the Euphrates, where the Israeli borders should be, according to Zionist ideology. The national anthem of the Herut Party—thst is, Shamir's party—says that the West Bank as well as the East Bank are part of Greater Israel. Golda Meir said: There is nothing called the Palestinians and each newly born baby robs me of my sleep; it is a great burden on my mind."

'Arafat says: "Come and let us negotiate. I am sure we have many demands and you, the Israelis, also have demands. But let us negotiate as equal partners on an equal footing and solve our problems."

'Arafat says that during the negotiations he will not concede any of the Palestinian people's rights and adds: "I will demand all of our political rights. Therefore, let the international conference convene as soon as possible under UN auspices and with the participation of the five UN Security Council permanent member states."

Answering a question on what will be the borders of the Palestinian state that he demands, 'Arafat says: "You will find them in the UN resolutions, which are perfectly clear."

Answering a question if this means Israel has to return to the 1947 borders and abandon territory it has considered part of its state since that time, in addition to territories occupied since 1967, 'Arafat says: "Let us negotiate about this at the international conference. No doubt we will find solutions at the conference. But I must say here and now that we want a passageway that connects the

Gaza Strip to the West Bank, because it is unreasonable to create a Palestinian state from two separate parts. These two parts have to be connected by a passageway."

Regarding Jerusalem and the difficulty of negotiations to resolve this problem, 'Arafat literally says: "In this regard, I would refer to the UN resolutions officially recognized by the United States, especially the resolution banning the acquisition of other countries' territories by force and stressing the need to return all territories occupied by force to their former owners. As is known, Arab Jerusalem was occupied by force. The annexation of Jerusalem is illegitimate and cannot be recognized and it is impossible for me to ignore these resolutions and accept the occupation of Jerusalem.

'Arafat rejects the establishment of a Palestinian state with a temporary capital other than Jerusalem and says: "The State of Palestine with Jerusalem as its capital. This is our demand and this is what will be."

He also rejects the idea that the Palestinian state should be disarmed, unless the Israeli army is disarmed as well. He says: "We are equal in the full sense of the word. We want a completely sovereign state without relinquishing any portion of this sovereignty. Why should the Palestinians accept these concessions and Israel not be asked to make similar concessions? If a disarmed Palestinian state is established, who can guarantee the nonrecurrence of the Sabra and Shatila massacres against our Palestinian people?

Regarding the fate of the settlers in the occupied territories following the establishment of the Palestinian state, 'Arafat answers: "Before the uprising, there were 70,000 colonialists, but after 13 months of uprising, there are only 16,000 settlewrs. I wonder how many will remain if the uprising continues."

Regarding confederation with Jordan, 'Arafat says: This could take place once a completely sovereign and independent Palestinian state is established and referendums or elections are held to explore whether the citizens want this.

Concluding his statement, he says: "Despite my disagreement with many Arabs, I know there is no Arab who wants to kill or assassinate me as a result of our policies based on the PNC reslutions. However, I know the Israeli Government has given instructions to the Mosad to destroy me. I also know they are pursuing me and they called their operation 'The Best Head.' Now we are witnessing the last 15 minutes before the birth of the Palestinian state."

Reportage on PLO Executive Committee Meeting

'Arafat Arrives in Baghdad

JN2412081088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0655 GMT 24 Dec 88

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Dec (INA)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived here last night on a visit of several days to Iraq.

During the visit, 'Arafat will chair the PLO Executive Committee meetings, which will discuss the situation in the occupied Arab territories and the developments of the Palestinian uprising. He will also lay the foundation stone for the Palestinian Embassy in Iraq.

Committee Begins Meetings

JN2412121888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1005 GMT 24 Dec 88

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Dec (INA)—The PLO Executive Committee began its meetings here this morning under the chairmanship of Yasir 'Arafat.

The committee will discuss the situation in the occupied Arab territories and the developments of the popular uprising. It will also discuss the Palestinian people's confrontation of the Zionist campaigns of terrorism and oppression, especially the recent escalation by the Zionist entity, its inhuman practices against the Palestinians, its constant denial of their national rights, which the international community recognizes, and its disregard for the international consensus represented by the recognition of the independent Palestinian state.

The PLO Executive Committee will also review the Palestinian moves that followed the Algiers [PNC] meetings and discuss measures to form the administrative, organizational, and constitutional institutions of the Palestinian state after more than 88 countries have so far recognized this state. It will also assess Arab moves and PLO efforts to convene an Arab summit to promote solidarity in the face of the threats to the Arab nation.

Yasir 'Arafat will present a comprehensive review of the outcome of his contacts with chief delegates to the Geneva debate on the Palestine question and his visits to a number of European countries.

Official on Meetings

JN2512140488 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Dec 88

[Text] A Palestinian official has said that the PLO Executive Committee which is meeting in Baghdad is discussing steps to establish the administrative and constitutional institutions of the Palestinian state which has been recognized by 88 countries.

'Azzam al-Ahmad, director of the PLO office in Baghdad, said that the committee meetings will continue today and tomorrow in view of the numerous topics on its agenda, including the recent developments in the Palestine question as a result of the formation of the Zionist government.

Regarding the declaration of a Palestinian government-in-exile, 'Azzam made a statement to the press today that the PLO Executive Committee is currently discussing

the formation of the state's establishments but, he said, the declaration will take place only after the PLO Central Council is called to give the vote of confidence to the government-in-exile.

'Abd Rabbuh on U.S. Dialogue, Other Issues

JN2412165288 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 22 Dec 88 p 28

[Text] Tunis—PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh has rejected criticisms made by certain Arab regimes against the PLO over its dialogue with the United States.

'Abd Rabbuh, who headed the Palestinian delegation to the first meeting with a U.S. delegation, added: "There are some who want to put us in their pockets. Actually, there is no pocket large enough to contain us." He explained that certain countries are now using the weapons used by the powers that colonized them and they may have exceeded them.

The Palestinian official described the PLO's relations with Syria as a "mystery." He said: The Syrians want us to join them. He stressed the need to preserve the unity of Palestinian ranks, no matter how large the differences. He said: "I was an extremist; I am supposed to belong to an extreme wing of the Palestinian struggle movements. However, today I am talking about the PNC resolutions within the framework of the single Palestinian word."

In a private meeting with Tunisian media which was attended by AL-ANBA', 'Abd Rabbuh talked about terrorism. He pointed out that the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations with the U.S. delegation has asked for the opinion of the White House on the Nabulus massacre, which was committed by the occupation troops on the eve of the meeting. He called for lifting U.S. protection for Israeli terrorism in the United Nations.

Answering a question on the Palestinian leadership's relation with Libya, 'Abd Rabbuh replied: Whatever comes from Colonel al-Qadhdhafi and Libya is acceptable.

He added that the current paradox facing the PLO is particularly connected to the manner with which it should deal with the new realities: The beginning of dialogue with the United States and Israel's intransigence. He pointed out that this situation must be properly employed. He also pointed out that the PLO will lay a strategy for this stage, which he described as much harder than the previous one, provided this strategy is coordinated with Arab states.

The Palestinian official warned against over-optimism following the success achieved by the Palestinian question in recent weeks due to the continuation of the heroic uprising in the occupied territories and the PLO's wise policy, which was dictated by the resolutions of the PNC's 19th extraordinary session.

Commenting on the U.S. demand made during the first meeting last Friday to open direct negotiations with Israel, 'Abd Rabbuh hailed the international conference for peace as the only way to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. He pointed out that the White House administration had failed in the past in finding alternatives to the PLO.

PLO's 'Abbas Pledges Operations Against Israel

NC2612113088 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 1100 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Text] In an interview with the Lebanese paper AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI, Palestinian official Abu al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] has said that subversive operations against Israel will continue until the Palestinians gain their rights. Those who believe an international peace conference can become a reality in the absence of military operations are wrong, Abu al-'Abbas added. He stressed that the PNC resolutions in Algiers do not call for a halt in operations.

Sabri al-Banna Comments on Al-Hasan Statements

JN2412182888 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1759 GMT 24 Dec 88

[Text] In a press statement he made following the statements made by Khalid al-Hasan, official in charge of the foreign affairs of the so-called PNC, to the Italian newspaper IL MESSAGGERO, Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna], secretary general of the Palestine National Liberation Movement, Fatah-Revolutionary Council, said:

Accepting the PLO leadership's political trend is something that can only be made by someone of the same Zionist Jewish race. The matter is not a mere political position, as claimed by Khalid al-Hasan or those who attended the so-called PNC in Algiers.

In conclusion, Abu Nidal said: I affirm to all strugglers of our nation and people, foremost of whom are the knights of the popular revolution in Palestine, that the PLO leadership has fulfilled its mission in full and our fighters also have to fulfill their own mission. [sentence as heard]

South Asian Regional Affairs

SAARC Foreign Secretaries Meet Before Summit

BK2612083088 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Text] The 11th session of the Standing Committee of SAARC foreign secretaries has begun in Islamabad. The foreign secretary of Nepal presided over the inaugural session. The meeting among other things is discussing ways and means to give concrete shape to five new ideas of cooperation as has been formulated at the meeting of the programming committee.

A press center has been set up at the Islamabad Hotel to provide professional facilities to newsmen on the eve of the fourth SAARC summit [beginning 29 December]. These facilities include telex machines, ISD and STD telephones, telefax, and radio photo machines, typewriters, a television set, and a plain paper copier.

Further Details on Meeting

BK2612155688 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Text] The Standing Committee of SAARC foreign secretaries has agreed to initiate programs that will directly assist in improving the social and economic conditions of the people of the countries in the region.

The Standing Committee at its session [in Islamabad 26 December] reviewed the implementation of a concrete working program and expressed its satisfaction with it. The session set up a working group to study the first draft of the Islamabad declaration. It is expected that the draft will be approved at the conclusion of the SAARC summit [on 31 December].

The session set up another committee which will prepare a draft of the Standing Committee report to be presented to the SAARC foreign ministers conference beginning tomorrow. The session reviewed the pace of implementation of the SAARC convention on prevention of terrorism and the SAARC food security system.

At today's session, Pakistan emphasized the need to pay special attention to the challenges posed by natural calamities.

Meanwhile, Radio Pakistan's diplomatic representative has learned that Sri Lanka's president-elect [Mr R. Premadasa] will represent Sri Lanka at the forthcoming SAARC summit.

Bangladesh Foreign Minister Mr Anisul Islam Mahmud arrived in Islamabad this evening to attend the SAARC foreign ministers meeting.

Nepalese Foreign Minister Mr Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Bhutan Foreign Minister Mr Lyonpo Dawa Tsering separately met with Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan in Islamabad today.

Algeria

Concern Over U.S. 'Threat' to Libya Expressed

LD2412190788 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 24 Dec 88

[Text] At the Foreign Ministry today Foreign Minister Boualem Bessaieh received the U.S. ambassador to Algeria.

The meeting follows official U.S. statements containing a threat to use force against the Libyan Jamahiriyah.

Boualem Bessaieh told the U.S. ambassador of Algeria's deep concern regarding the threats of military action against the Libyan Jamahiriyah on the pretext that Libya is on the verge of making chemical weapons.

Bessaieh affirmed that such threats run counter to the spirit of pacification and dialogue which currently characterizes international relations; they also disturb the constructive atmosphere necessary for the success of the international conference on chemical weapons which is scheduled to convene soon.

The foreign minister also received Sa'd Mujbir, secretary of the People's Bureau in Algiers, and the minister expressed to him Algeria's solidarity with the fraternal Libyan people and its political leadership in the face of the threats against Libya.

Egypt

Official Lauds Syrian 'Gesture' on Relations

JN2512100888 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0900 GMT 25 Dec 88

[Text] Al-Shariqah, 25 Dec (WAKH)—A senior Egyptian official has described the station commentary broadcast by Damascus radio yesterday on Syrian-Egyptian relations as a positive and good gesture. He added that this gesture can be considered an important step taken toward the materialization of Arab solidarity if it is translated into a tangible reality affecting the two countries' relations.

The source informed Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ which was published today that the translation of this gesture into a tangible reality would be in the interest of the Arab nation. He added that this would also serve the Arab nation's ability to confront the challenges facing it.

Damascus radio affirmed in its station commentary yesterday that Syria is ready to improve its relations with Egypt after an enstrangement that has lasted for more than 10 years and said that Damascus has always extended its hand toward Egypt and Iraq.

The Syrian radio indicated that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak is not responsible for Anwar al-Sadat's behavior or policy and added that an improvement in Syrian-Egyptian relations demands the discharge of responsibilities. The radio went on to say that Damascus is ready to discharge this responsibility.

Soviet Envoy on Bilateral Ties, Foreign Policy

NC2612154488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Text] Cairo, 26 Dec (MENA)—Soviet Ambassador in Cairo Gennadiy Zhuravlev has announced that President Husni Mubarak will visit the Soviet Union in due course. He noted that diplomatic consultations are underway to discuss a visit to Egypt soon by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. However, he did not specify the date of the visit.

At a news conference in Cairo today, the Soviet ambassador disclosed that President Mubarak and Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev exchange messages regularly. He stated that these messages constitute the beginning of a continuous dialogue between the two leaders.

Underlining the developing relations between Egypt and the Soviet Union, he praised Egypt's aid to the earthquake victims in the Republic of Armenia and noted President Mubarak's assertion that Egypt is willing to provide unlimited assistance in this respect.

The Soviet ambassador said Egypt was among the first countries to send aid to the earthquake victims. He pointed out that the first shipment of aid arrived on 10 December and was followed by successive shipments totaling about 400 tons of food, medicine, medical equipment, and winter clothing.

He remarked that the Soviet leadership had asked him to convey the gratitude and thanks of the Soviet Government and people to the Egyptian people, President Mubarak, and political leaders in Egypt. He pointed out that in 2 years the Soviet Government will complete the reconstruction of what was destroyed in Armenia.

He noted that the official death toll of the earthquake is 55,000; 22,000 bodies have been recovered from under the rubble, and 15,000 people have been rescued, 10,000 of whom are still in hospital, he added. The ambassador said that R200 million have been spent as urgent aid for the affected families and that reconstruction of the devastated area will cost about $10 billion. He said that more than 80 countries had provided assistance to the victims in Armenia.

He reiterated the Soviet Union's principled stand on the Middle East issue and the need for the PLO's participation in any peace negotiations as a principal party. He emphasized the formula for an international peace conference and the participation of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council in this conference.

He pointed out that the idea of an international conference has become acceptable to the entire international community and said that the Soviet Union's position in this respect is clear. It calls for the establishment of peace in the interest of all the parties concerned in the region, including the PLO, the Palestinians' sole legitimate representative.

Commenting on the situation in Afghanistan, the Soviet ambassador stressed the positive results of the Al-Ta'if meeting between Afghan mujahidin and Soviet delegations. He said that the meeting of Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov with Zahir Shah, the former king of Afghanistan, who is living in exile in Rome, was aimed at reaching a peaceful settlement of the current situation in Afghanistan.

He noted that former King Zahir Shah supports the idea of settling the Afghan problem peacefully through negotiations. He asserted that the former king's participation in a coalition government would encourage peace in Afghanistan, because he is on good terms with all the parties and known to everyone there. The Soviet ambassador affirmed that no military clashes are currently taking place in Afghanistan.

55 Fundamentalist Students Arrested in Asyut

NC2712062488 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 27 Dec 88

[Text] The Egyptian authorities detained 55 fundamentalist students yesterday for demonstrating on the campus of Asyut University.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Offers To Return U.S. Pilot's Body

LD2412084388 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 24 Dec 88

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 23 Dec [date as received] (JANA)—JANA has learned that the brother leader of the revolution has sent a message of greetings to the leaders of the Christian world on the occasion of Christ's birthday. May God's peace be upon him.

The brother leader also sent greetings to the Arab Christians who are fighting beside their Arab Muslim brethren against the new crusaders and the racist Zionists. On this occasion the brother leader has appealed for the release of the abducted, the detained, and the hostages, mentioning by name the two French girls, Marie-Laurie and Virginie.

The brother leader has also invited the family of the U.S. pilot, Lorence, whose plane was shot down during the failed U.S. barbaric and savage attack on Tripoli and Banghazi in April 1986, which claimed the lives of many innocent children, elderly people, and women, including the leader's adopted daughter Hana, to take possession of his body, which will be handed over through the pope, as this occasion coincides in particular with the end of the rule of Reagan, the murderer of children, and his administration.

Al-Qadhdhafi Interviewed on Chemical Plant

LD2512163488 Tripoli JANA in English 1500 GMT 25 Dec 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 25th., JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of revolution has stressed that the U.S. charges are but a type of terrorism exercised by the U.S. against the revolution in great Jamahiriyah. In an interview with the French TV Network 1 broadcast Friday, the leader of revolution has said that any country takes a step to establish a civilian industry is put under pressure to stop it from developing.

Asked on the U.S. allegations to say that the medicines plant is one for chemical weapons, he points out that is one for medicines. Soon, he adds, celebrations will be conducted marking the start of production therein. The ambassadors of foreign countries and pressmen will be attending it to make the world rest assured about it. He continues that the world in its entirety must stand in the face of the U.S. to stop its terrorism. Any hostile attempt against a civilian target and a civilian manufacture. We will retaliate very strongly. The U.S. people and the world must know this.

We, he adds, will defy the U.S. on the day of inaugurating this manufacture. We will show that the U.S. is a liar and a cheat. This will be on the day of opening this manufacture.

He has informed the above French TV that what is taking place in Great Jamahiriyah regarding the application of the people's democracy is a living fact. It is not a propaganda. It is something compatible with the third universal theory and the Green Book, apart from the Jamahiri society which is free from prisons, oppression and injustice. He stresses that we are living in the stage of the application of the third universal theory.

On the rights of man in the world, the leader of revolution says that he regards the International Declaration on Human Rights as an old traditional document of a former age. Man's rights in this age are different from what this declaration is about. We regard that man's rights in this age—the age of the masses—are what is asserted in the great green document on man's rights passed by the basic people's congresses.

It regards the first right of man is his right to self-determination because man's fate should not be decided on his behalf. Rather, He should rule himself by himself. There is no possibility that he rules by himself except through establishing [words indistinct] the people's power and the establishment of the people's committees. A person who is ruled by a party, class or a government

is deprived of his basic right to self-determination and cannot determine his future, but is determined on his behalf by the government or the party that rules his fate.

The leader of revolution adds that the great green paper on human rights has stressed the man's sweat is the second right of his. He cannot relinquish. It is his right for his effort and his sweat. The exploitation in existence at present worldwide deprives man his basic right in life.

The leader of revolution points out that man-hiring of his fellow human being in the capitalist system of exploitation makes man like an animal and a machine to be hired. He stresses that man should become a partner, not a wage-worker and workers are partners, not wage-workers. This, he adds, means the abolishment of wages, trading, profit and commerce. The workers are partners in the production.

On the question of the Arab-Zionist conflict, the leader of the revolution announces anew that the U.S. and Europe should not get themselves involved in this question and should remain neutral. This conflict should remain between the Palestinian Arab people and the Zionists only.

He points out what is taking place is a storm in a teacup. He says that he does not at all believe that a real peace has started. The Israelis have rejected what has been called the peace initiative and has replied to it through a massacre in Nabulus. They killed 8 youth and wounded 30 others. The [words indistinct] the ways of force. This means that the war will continue and that violence will continue.

On the U.S. presidential elections of late, he says that the new U.S. President Bush wants to serve the U.S. and its interests in that Reagan has destroyed U.S. interests especially in Great Jamahiriyah according to his comments.

The leader of revolution points out that Reagan, the failing actor, the stupid child, the insane and the mad dog, has pursued an abortive policy harming U.S. interests.

The leader of revolutions says that he doesn't think that Bush has had these attributes because he has learnt from Reagan's policy which is childish and rash. The U.S. firms have sustained heavy losses and the Libyan Arab market has been shut in the face of U.S. exports. What is called boycott and siege laid against great Jamahiriyah have resulted into loss to the U.S. Great Jamahiriyah has never sustained any damage because of this at all. We do not in the least care for this boycott or this sanctions even if they continue until doomsday.

The leader of revolution, asked on the Afro-French summit, says that this get-together is regarded as a traditional and colonialist gathering, apart from being insensible attempt. [Sentence as received] He says he believes this gathering will vanish because it is a form of colonialization. I, he adds, believe in cooperation between Europe and Africa and the Mediterranean Sea countries, the Arab nation and European countries.

As for having one country from Europe be in cooperation with a number of African countries, it is a form of hegemony and an abortive attempt to be kept off. I, he continues, call for Euro-Arab cooperation and for African cooperation, and for Mediterranean cooperation.

He stresses that we are in real and actual peace with Chad. The conflict raging now clearly in CHad is tribal and a civil war inside Chad. I am sorry that there are fights raging now on the borders of Central Africa inside Chad. France is well aware that the war in Chad has been a civilian war. The evidence is that this war is continuing despite the peace and the normalization of relations between us and Chad.

I am very sorry that France connects its relations with Libya with problems between Libya and one of its neighbours. This has made the French people lose many interests. I regard the French policy as foolish because it has made France lose many interests in Libya because of freezing all the programmes of cooperation between the two countries because of a problem between two African neighbourly countries which are closer to each other than France.

He adds that he has addressed several messages formerly to the French people. I, he continues, am sorry that this people is not capable of responding and of expressing itself because it doesn't rule itself by itself. Rather, it is ruled on its behalf. My speech to the French people is one for a quarter that is not capable of expressing itself. He adds that he loves the French people and appreciates its glorious history.

I, he continues, regard the revolution waged by this people as historic bringing about a massive advancement worldwide. It established the republican system in the same manner the Great al-Fatih revolution has established the Jamahiri system. I regret that those who rule the French people are the ones that have frozen the cooperation.

The leader of revolution has stressed in the interview conducted by the French TV Network I that France should have thanked Great Jamahiriyah and the great Al-Fatih Revolution because it has introduced it to the Arab homeland heralding a new friendship with it. It is we that [words indistinct] brought in the French weaponry after being banned prior to the outbreak of the revolution. Great Jamahiriyah has established bridges of friendship with France in the Arab homeland.

He points out the French Governments have disregarded this [words indistinct] fought Jamahiriyah and the great Al-Fatih Revolution. He adds that he [words indistinct] against the French people nor against a people [word

indistinct] apart from being our neighbour in the Mediterranean Sea like the Italian, Spanish, Greek, and Yugoslavian peoples. Hence, we want peace and affection and cooperation [words indistinct] it.

Meanwhile, the above French TV network watched by more than 20 million people screened in its main bulletin a film before and after this interview on the massive civilized achievements brought about in the first Jamahiriyah in history thanks to the great Al-Fatih Revolution.

JANA Editor Comments on U.S. 'Threats'

LD2412205188 Tripoli JANA in English 1827 GMT 24 Dec 88

[Text] Tripoli, Dec 24, JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Voice of America this morning dedicated its commentary which expresses the opinion of the American Government to repeat the usual American speech against the Arab people of great Jamahiryah.

In this speech the American Administration repeated its continuing falsifications and lies aimed at the distortion of the image of Great Jamahiryah amongst them the latest claim that a pharmaceutical factory being build at present in Great Jamahiryah was a factory for chemical weapons despite the assertion of the whole world that the claim was groundless and is merely a weak pretext once again the American Administration is seeking to rely on it to carry on the hateful and spitefull campaign against the Libyan Arab people and the Arab nation.

The editor of international affairs in JANA commented on the lies, falsifications and threats by the American Administration which became overwhelmed by dreams of reality and feels that it is the world policeman who is not asked about its acts.

The commentator pointed out: The echoes made by the American news media under the clear and direct direction by Reagan personally and the hostile threats he personally issued against Jamahiryah make us once again ask the question anew: Why does the American president show all this savagery, spite and hatred against the Libyan Arab people.

Answering this question requires first of all the assertion of the danger posed by the ill personality to others. And if the psychatrists warn the need to isolate a personality like this the personality of Reagan is a double threat and requires an urgent American and international isolation so as to prevent the spread of the results of his mad policy and which might lead to an all out world disaster.

It seems that Reagan felt that his days are nearing an end and the decision making power is to abandon him...a feeling which enhances to ill personalities hatred towards others and desire for revenge...Reagan is attempting now to take his last mad decision without any respect to America or the world. But why Great Jamahiryah?

Because it was the first power in the world which discovered the ill personality of /Reagan/ [JANA slantlines] and the extent of its disintegration and loss consequently when his hostile intention intensify against the great Al-Fatih Revolution and its leader he is in fact trying to rid himself of the contradiction which uncovers his weakness and [words indistinct] and vices.

Secondly, because Great Jamahiryah has been always against the colonial strategy followed by Reagan and based on terrorising the world peoples in general and the Arab nation in particular, Reagan went mad when he saw that all his open and secret hostile plans were confronted and aborted by the great Al-Fatih Revolution.

The editor added: The great Al-Fatih Revolution with its leader was able to confront the American tyranny and arrogance with self creativity born out of its Arab, Islamic and African originality through the permanent and continous instigation and the genuine action for the realisation of the Arab unity and the confrontation of hostile plans aimed at its destruction as well as to secure the freedom and unity of the African Continent and the entrenchment of the principled alliance of Africa with itself and to be for Africans away from foreign colonial interventions.

Also this internationalist progressive role of the great Al-Fatih Revolution is represented also in the beginning of substantive transformation process in a totally independent framework heralding a new era which will restore humanity to the individual given to him by Allah to live free, happy and creative.

The editor went on to say that this great humanitarian role being undertaken by the great Al-Fatih Revolution in the whole world made a target for to those seeking to maintain and entrench the existing colonial concepts from the seizure of individual freedom, stealing his work and robbing him of his wealth and at their forefront the American Government and its President Reagan.

For all these factors, the great Al-Fatih Revolution and its internationalist leader became a target to the gangster and ill personality of Reagan which led to ordering the aborted American Atlantic barbaric aggression against great Jamahiryah in Al-Tayr [April] 1986 and which is now waving another desperate attempt to terrorise the Libyan Arab people by repeating the aggression.

The editor of international affairs in JANA concluded his commentary by saying: Great Jamahiryah from which the eternal masses thinking came asserting, amongst other things, that peoples do not launch wars but it is governments which throw them into war, has been Jamahiriyah, calling always for dialogue amongst peoples and not governments and the American Government which totally denied the American people its will after robbing it of this will threw this people into unjust and lost wars is still persisting on this hostile policy and

here it is threatening on the tongue of its President /Reagan/ smaller and innocent people living on its land and amongst its brothers. [sentence as received]

But this people which belongs to an ancient and original nation is able to to defend itself and for its land, achievements, and civilised heritage and to become a strong rock on which all attempts of aggression shall be destroyed...and in history lessons proving this.

Envoy Denies Chemical Weapons Production

AU2412150088 Rome ANSA in English 1013 GMT 24 Dec 88

[Text] (ANSA) Rome, Dec 24—The chemicals plant under construction in Libya "will not produce nor contain chemical weapons", Tripoli' s ambassador to Rome, 'Abd al-Rahman Shalqam, said in a press conference here to deny allegations made this week by American President Ronald Reagan, when affirming that the United States would consider making an air strike against the plant.

"We have already announced" the Libyan ambassador added Friday, "that numerous foreign guests will participate in the inauguration of the plant and that Libya will participate in the Paris conference on chemical weapons in January".

Asked whether his government was considering extraditing Palestinian 'Usamah 'Abd al-Zumar, the alleged terrorist Italian authorities believe involved in an attack on the Rome Synagogue several years ago, the Tripoli diplomat replied "There are no charges against him in Libya... If Italy, even tomorrow, should sign an extradition treaty with us, then we would most surely respect it".

Official Urges U.S. To Open 'Dialogue'

JN2612095588 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0756 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Text] Al-Shariqah, 26 Dec (WAKH)—A high-ranking Libyan official has called on the Reagan administration to hold a dialogue with Libya instead of leveling threats at it. He also called on the Reagan administration not to impose on the new U.S. Administration the consequences of its policy.

Dr 'Ali al-Hudayri, member of the Libyan People's Committee for Foreign Liaison, told the newspaper AL-KHALIJ published in Al-Shariqah today that dialogue is the only means to resolve all problems, especially since the United States tried military means and used its fleets and aircraft against libya, but had failed to achieve its objectives.

The Libyan official condemned terrorism in all its forms, including the use of fleets, hijacking planes, and the taking of hostages by individuals.

The Libyan official affirmed that the U.S. Administration's threats are aimed at influencing the international conference on chemical weapons, which will be held in Paris on 7 January, and at pressuring the European states whose relations with Libya have improved after it has become apparent that Libya has nothing to do with what Washington accuses it of. He said Washington also aims to ease the pressure on the Zionist entity by shifting the world's attention from the Palestinian revolution in the occupied territories to Libya.

The Libyan official welcomed the Egyptian criticism of the U.S. threats. He said he does not believe that Egyptian officials would find themselves in a good position if the United States attacks Libya. He also welcomed any Arab effort to discourage the United States from achieving its objectives against Libya.

Iranian Official Cited on U.S. Accusations

LD2612223188 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Text] Ayatollah Sadeq Khalkhali, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee at the Iranian consultative Majlis, made a statement to the newspaper AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR, organ of the revolutionary committees in the great Jamahiriyah.

He said: More than once I have said that we have one enemy. The enemy levels one change against us: so-called terrorism. The United States is the great satan and the leader of international imperialism which attacked the house of the leader of the great Al-Fatih Revolution and innocent people in Tripoli and Banghazi; it is the same barbarous force that attacked Iran.

An Iranian civilian plane was shot down not long ago. In his statement to the AL-ZAHF AL- AKHDAR Khalkhali said: Our unchanging stands on our basic rights, our just issues of liberating Jerusalem, and our people's possession of their own resources are what bring us accusations of terrorism. He said that the reason we are being terrorized ourselves is that we have not entered the filthy U.S. house of obedience and we have not stained our hands by submitting to the United States as others have done.

He said: We cleansed Tehran of the U.S. villians' filth. When Americans enjoyed immunity in Iran, the United States was against terrorism. When we threw them out and closed down the embassy of the Zionist enemy we were called terrorists. When Al-Qadhdhafi expelled them from the Jamahiriyah soil and made that soil forbidden to them, he was called terrorist.

ICO's Pirzadeh Stresses Solidarity

LD2512214388 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2105 GMT 25 Dec 88

[Text] Jiddah 25 Dec (SPA)—ICO Secretary General Sharifuddin Pirzadeh condemned the official U.S. statements concerning the possibility of undertaking military action against a chemical factory in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

In a press statement issued today, Sunday, he stressed that the government of the Jamahiriyah has already refuted these claims and stressed its commitment to all the international agreements and treaties on chemical weapons.

Pirzadeh pointed out that the UN conference on disarmament has achieved essential progress toward preparing a comprehensive treaty for banning the production and manufacturing of chemical weapons. He said the efforts to complete this treaty should continue.

Relying on the explanations presented by the Jamahiriyah government, the ICO secretary general hoped that the United States will show self-restraint.

Pirzadeh stressed the solidarity of the ICO with the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, and he said the Islamic countries have adopted a stance based on principles and in support of the Jamahiriyah according to the ICO resolutions.

People's Bureau Denies Bombing Pan Am Plane

AU2412144188 Rome ANSA in English 0819 GMT 24 Dec 88

[Text] (ANSA) Rome [No dateline as received]—A telephone call claiming Libyan responsibility in the Pan Am plane disaster in Scotland two days ago was discounted by sources at the Libyan Embassy here Friday as the work of a "madman."

The anonymous caller left his message with the ANSA NEWS AGENCY's office in Bologna, central Italy. "Absurd," was the comment of one high-ranking source at the Libyan's People's Office, as the North African state's diplomatic missions are called.

"Libya condemns all acts of terrorism," the source said. "Striking at civilians is an act of cowardice. Rather, we feel condolence for what has happened and solidarity for the families of the disaster victims."

"If this anonymous caller has proof, he should present it," the source added. "Any madman can make a phone call in our name. A claim of responsibility of this kind is without any value."

Further Details on Accusation

LD2312192688 Rome International Service in Italian 1830 GMT 23 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Responsibility for the crash 2 days ago in Scotland was received in an anonymous telephone call this morning in Bologna to the offices of a news agency. A male voice, with a foreign accent, said that an unspecified Libyan organization planted a bomb on the Pan Am jumbo jet, which crashed upon the Scottish village of Lockerbie. Inquiries have been made into the veracity of the claim, but its reliability is puzzling. [passage omitted]

Mauritania

Taya Returns From Iraq, Meets PLO's 'Arafat

LD2612003188 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 25 Dec 88

[Excerpts] Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid 'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the CMSN and head of state, and his delegation returned a short time ago to Nouakchott after a visit to Iraq. [passage omitted]

Our colleague Omar Bouhdai, who accompanied the presidential delegation, is now with me in the studio:

[Bouhdai] On his arrival a short time ago, President Maaouiya Ould Sid 'Ahmed Taya made a statement to the press in which he said:

Between the 24th and 25th of this month, I visited fraternal Iraq in response to an invitation from my brother President Saddam Husayn. During our visit with our brothers there, we expressed the Mauritanian people's appreciation of the great victory achieved by the fraternal Iraqi people in defending the safety and security of our Arab nation. We witnessed first hand the vanguard economic and social changes achieved under the war conditions. These changes pushed forward the wheel of progress in that fraternal country.

I was also able to hold fruitful talks with brother President Saddam Husayn about the various issues of interest to the two fraternal countries which are linked by ties of fraternity, amicability, cooperation, and the joint aspiration to achieve the impregnability of our countries and all the other Arab countries.

Now I cannot but express gratitude to my brother and friend, President Saddam Husayn, and the Iraqi Government and people for the warm hospitality we were accorded during our stau presence in fraternal Iraq. Thank you. [passage omitted]

This morning President Maaouiya Ould Sid 'Ahmed Taya received at his residence Mr Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee. The meeting was attended by the PLO ambassador to Baghdad.

After the meeting we met Mr Yasir 'Arafat and asked him about numerous points concerning the ties between the PLO and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania. We also asked him about his feelings about the holding of an international peace conference on the Middle East, where he expressed optimism in light of the emergence of encouraging indications.

We will give the listeners Mr Yasir 'Arafat's full statement in our coming newscasts.

Before leaving Baghdad, the head of state made a statement in the VIP lounge to the Iraqi press in which he renewed the congratulations of Mauritania, the leadership, and people to the fraternal Iraqi leadership and people for the great victories achieved by Iraq. [passage omitted]

Morocco

King Reportedly To Mediate Between U.S., Libya

JN2612164588 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 25 Dec 88 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that Morocco intends to contact the United States to prevent it from launching a new act of aggression against Libya. King Hassan II of Morocco will intervene with U.S. President Reagan and French President Mitterrand to stop any hostile plans against Libya provided it issues an official clarification on the factory.

Washington claims the factory is a "chemical" plant while Tripoli says it is "intended for the production of pharmaceuticals."

Arab diplomatic sources in Rabat told AL-ITTIHAD that Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, member of the Libyan Revolution Command Council, discussed this subject during his meeting in Rabat Friday with the Moroccan monarch.

The same sources added that Libya stressed its readiness to attend the conference on toxic gases to be held in Paris in mid-January and its commitment to any resolution adopted by the conference.

Sudan

'Plotters' Interrogated on Coup Attempt

LD2612184288 Khartoum SUNA in English 1620 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Text] Khartoum, 26 Dec (SUNA)—Numbers of the detainees who have been arrested in charge of plotting against democracy have reached 16 persons. Nine of the detainees are militants among them a lieutenant colonel called Hasan Ahmad Ahmad Nasr rtd, major, security brigadier rtd and nine NCO, in addition to seven civilians.

Reliable sources at the Armed Forces General Command revealed that another plotter of lieutenant rank called Muhammad Sulayman is still at large.

The sources said interrogation with the plotters is underway adding that the General Command had been closely monitoring the movement of the plotters who some of them are associated with many defunct regime of ousted Numayri [as received].

MENA Reveals Details of Government 'Crisis'

NC2312161988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1220 GMT 23 Dec 88

[Text] Khartoum, 3 Dec (MENA)—The ministers of the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] in the Sudanese National Accord government, provincial governors and their deputies, as well as the provincial ministers tendered their resignations to party leader Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani last night for onward transmission to Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi.

They handed in their resignations out of a conviction that the party should leave the accord government and joint the opposition ranks following the crisis which broke out in the Sudanese Constituent Assembly regarding the peace initiative in southern Sudan the night before last.

This has happened at a time when the Sudanese Council of State represented by Council Deputy Chairman Idris al-Banna has initiated broad contacts to contain this political crisis.

The crisis broke out when the Ummah Party's deputies led by Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and the Sudanese Islamic Front voted at the Constitutent Assembly's meeting the night before the last against the proposal of the Democratic Unionist Party supporting the Sudanese peace initiative in south Sudan, which was signed by the DUP and John Garang's movement on 16 November. The National Unionist Party deputies voted against Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's proposal on peace in the south.

The issue ended when during this session the Constituent Assembly unanimously approved the statement by Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi on peace in southern Sudan and his proposal that he be charged with adopting the necessary measures for convening the constitutional national conference on 31 December.

In 48 hours the Sudanese DUP is expected to announce its stand on whether to keep its ministers in the Sudanese accord government.

Informed sources in the DUP reported that party leader Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani held intensive contacts all yesterday with some of the party leadership. The same sources added that a number of these leaders noted that Al-Mirghani desires to remain in the government and to fight to achieve the party's peaceful initiative on southern Sudan.

But Dr Ahmad Bilal, DUP Political Bureau member and minister of state at the Ministry of Health, stressed that he will not go back on his resignation which he tendered together with other party ministers to party leader Al-Mirghani, even if the party and its ministers retract their current position.

Dr Ahmad al-Sayyid Hamad, DUP Political Bureau member, called on Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi to hold a popular plebiscite on peace in southern Sudan. He noted that this issue has become a national and fateful one.

Dr Ahmad al-Sayyid Hamad stressed that the DUP will not go back on its stand of withdrawing from the government because of its adherence and commitment to the peaceful initiative on southern Sudan which it recently signed with the John Garang movement, particularly as the entire Sudanese people now support peace.

DUP Political Bureau member Muhammad 'Abd al-Jawad has also stressed that the issue of peace in southern Sudan is the principal cause for the party. He said that conflicts and disputes within the Constituent Assembly on the southern peace initiative have taken the country into a crisis from which it is difficult to emerge.

The DUP leadership has discussed a proposal to send a party envoy to Addis Ababa in the coming period to meet with John Garang's representatives and brief them on what has taken place in the Constituent Assembly in Khartoum, to stress that the DUP still adheres to its position on the peace agreement which Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani signed with the movement, and to stress that the agreement enjoys large-scale popular support and that the party will continue to propagate and explain it and attract Sudanese public opinion's support for it.

Regarding the ongoing contacts to contain the crisis that has taken place in the Constituent Assembly because of the peace initiative in the South, Idris al-Banna, deputy chairman of the Council of State, met last night with DUP leader Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani and stressed to him the necessity that what has taken place should not threaten national unity and national accord. In the next 2 days Al-Banna is scheduled to discuss the same issue with Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi.

Dr Adam Madbu, member of Ummah Party General Secretariat, has commented on the Constituent Assembly decision to charge the prime minister with taking measures to hold the constitutional conference on time without explicitly specifying the acceptance of the peace initiative signed by Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani and Colonel John Garang.

He said that the Constituent Assembly will shoulder the resultant internal and external repurcussions which will affect stability, security, national unity, and development all over the country either negatively or positively. He called on all political, vocational, and labor unions forces to exert their efforts to achieve the aims of the peace initiative away from reactions that would lead "to loss of confidence in the existing democratic system whose existence is surrounded and threatened by a number of complex problems."

Tunisia

President, U.S. Ambassador Discuss Area Issues

LD2312135288 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Dec 88

[Excerpts] Today received at the Palace of the Republic in Carthage, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received U.S. Ambassador Robert Pelletreau Jr. [passage omitted]

TAP notes that the meeting dealt with President Reagan's initiative to open dialogue with the PLO.

President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali expressed his satisfaction to the U.S. ambassador over this step, and he stressed the need to make all efforts converge in order to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East as soon as possible, so that the whole Arab-Israeli conflict will be settled on the basis of establishing an independent Palestinian state.

Their talks also tackled the accusations that the Libyan Jamahiriyah possesses a chemical arms factory. The president stressed that the Jamahiriyah denies the possession of these deadly weapons and announces its adherence to the international charters to this effect.

President Ben Ali expressed hope that the Jamahiriyah's assertions will be taken into account and that this conflict in opinion will be dealth with by political means, which are the only means appropriate for avoiding complications which can have dangerous consequences to the region. The meeting also dealt with Tunisian-U.S. relations.

President Ben Ali Receives Libyan Envoy

LD2312141188 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Dec 88

[Text] Today at the Palace of the Republic in Carthage President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali received the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah's high commissioner in Tunis, 'Abd al-Ati al-Ubaydi, who stated after the meeting that he conveyed to the president a message from his brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September revolution.

The message was related to the accusations made by the U.S. Administration against Libya and the threats to carry out a new aggression. He added that he found President Ben Ali fully concerned about these threats.

President Receives PLO's 'Arafat 22 Dec

LD2212134988 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Dec 88

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali today received Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, at the Government Palace in Carthage.

Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche and Hakim Bal'awi, PLO representative in Tunis, were also present.

Kuwait

U.S. 'Denounced' for 'Threats' Against Libya

LD2612131188 Kuwait KUNA in English 1220 GMT 26 Dec 88

[By Salih Nazzal]

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 26 (KUNA)—Kuwait Monday denounced the U.S. threats against Libya for alleged possessing of a plant that produces chemical weapons by that Arab country.

Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh al-Sabah al-Ahmad said in an answer to a question from KUWAIT NEWS AGENCY that Kuwait denounces such threats and the talks about possible agressions on the Libyan soil under the pretext that Libya has a plant for producing chemical weapons.

Shaykh al-Sabah went on saying that these threats are not only directed against Libya but against the Arab world as a whole and pointed out that Libya has unequivocally denied that it has a factory for manufacturing chemical arms and stressed that the plant is only for producing medicines.

The Arab League Council meets in Tunis today at the level of the permanent representatives to discuss the American threats.

The deputy premier and foreign minister emphasized that Kuwait stands alongside sisterly Libya against any aggression from the outside.

The U.S. has recently announced that it is consulting with its allies and is considering carrying out a "preemptive attack" on Libya following the allegation about the plant.

Minister Denies Possibility of U.S. Bases

LD2712091088 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0715 GMT 27 Dec 88

[Text] Kuwait 27 Dec (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Nawwaff al-Ahmad al-Jabir denied, in a press statement here today, that Kuwait had examined with any U.S. political or military official the possibility of furnishing any facilities to set up U.S. bases on land or in the Kuwaiti territorial waters.

Shaykh Nawwaf added, in a press statement to the Kuwaiti daily AL-WATAN, that Kuwait's stance is "clear and firm" and "we refuse to give any party or any country any military facilities—whether on land or in the sea, at our ports or in our territorial waters."

The Kuwaiti official denied his country had examined such a matter during U.S. Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci's recent visit to Kuwait and added:" Even during Carlucci's visit, such matters were not raised. I believe Washington does appreciate our stance."

On the visit paid recently by Major General Mazyad al-Sani', Kuwaiti chief of staff, to Washington, Shaykh al-Ahmad asserted that such a visit "was successful, purposeful, and had achieved its aims".

He added that Maj Gen al-Sani's visit did not have on its agenda any political topic or any other matter dealing with further purchase of new weapons, pointing out the Kuwaiti military official had paid such a visit to the United States to acquaint himself with its military technology and its units and formations, as well as to examine cooperation in the field of training and be assured on the Kuwaiti servicemen's training program there.

He denied the news reports asserting there are differences between Washington and Kuwait on the dates of the delivery of the agreed arms and affirmed such reports "are categorically unfounded."

Concerning the issue of flying the U.S. flag over Kuwaiti tankers, the defense minister said the issue is still unchanged in the shadow of the stagnation and ambiguity of the Iraq-Iran negotiations in Geneva.

As for Kuwait-China military cooperation, Shaykh Nawwaf pointed out that the Kuwaiti delegation, which paid a visit recently to Beijing, was keen on obtaining the maximum benefit from the occasion and felt the Chinese side is ready to cooperate with Kuwait "in supplying us with all our needs of military weapons and equipment".

He added: "In fact, we study all the offers we get, and we choose according to the suitability and quality of the offered items, and we decide everything in its own time. Therefore, the issue of cooperating with China or buying weapons from Beijing is studied like any other application".

He revealed that the six GCC countries are currently studying the possibilities of experimentally manufacturing some military requirements. But he excluded any current possibility of establishing a heavy military industry. He said the GCC defense ministers in their upcoming meeting will discuss a report of a special committee, which they formed previously to prepare a draft schedule for the joint military industry.

The GCC includes Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, and UAE.

The Kuwaiti defense minister said his country is about to develop its Armed Forces, especially the Navy, on a large scale. He expressed his hopes that the Kuwaiti Navy in 3 years' time will be on a level which will enable it to shoulder its duties in facing up to any development in the region.

Minister Announces Radio Transmission Changes

LD2612114988 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Text] Information Minister Shaykh Jabir Mubarak al-Hamad announced that the transmission of Kuwait Radio's general program will be extended—from the beginning of the New Year 1989—to around the clock within the framework of the Information Ministry's commitment to developing its organs and programs continuously in response to the directives of the amir and the heir apparent and prime minister to establish information on firm and well-studied bases so it becomes compatible with our vigorous state in all fields and arenas.

In a statement to KUNA, he said the development will also include foreign FM radio, whose daily transmission time will be extended by an additional 2 hours—from the beginning of the New Year also—so that its transmission begins at 6 am [0300 GMT] instead of 8 am.

He added it has also been decided to extend the period of evening transmission of the Qur'an Radio by 2 hours every day—from around 7 February 1989.

The information minister stressed that extending the periods of transmission of these three programs will be accompanied by a qualitative leap forward in their programs in consolidation of Kuwaiti Arab, Islamic, and international information role after Kuwait has occupied its suitable political, economic, and civilized status among the countries and peoples of the world.

PDRY

'Source' on 'U.S. Hostile Campaign' Against Libya

EA2612200688 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Text] A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry has made a press statement to ANA on the U.S. threats against the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah [SPLAJ] in which he expressed the great concern of the PDRY and the condemnation of the threats by the United States against the fraternal SPLAJ.

The source expressed the fraternal solidarity of Democratic Yemen with the fraternal Libyan Jamahiriyah and its disapproval of the U.S. hostile campaign, which constituted a threat against an independent and sovereign state which is also a UN member and a fraternal Arab country.

He pointed out this represented a violation of international conventions and norms and the atmosphere of political detente which prevails in the world today. It is an action likely to lead to an atmosphere of tension in the region and the destablization of its security.

Saudi Arabia

'Indignation' Over U.S. 'Threats' to Libya

LD2612232488 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2255 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Text] Riyadh, 26 Dec, SPA—According to media reports quoting U.S. officials, the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has expressed profound indignation over the threats directed at the fraternal Arab Libyan Jamahiriyah by the U.S. Government.

A responsible source told SPA this and added: Libya has openly announced that the threatened plant was only producing medical drugs and has nothing to do with manufacturing chemical weapons. This open explanation was expected to gain the trust and acceptance of the U.S. Government.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia sees no justification for the complication of the situation following the official Libyan clarifications aimed at dealing with matters logically to preserve peace initiatives and out of a desire to consolidate security and stability in all Arab countries.

United Arab Emirates

President Denounces U.S. 'Threats' Against Libya

JN2712110288 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 27 Dec 88

[Text] President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan received a telephone call last night from His Excellency Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. During this contact they exchanged views on the current Arab situation in light of recent developments on Arab and international levels.

The telephone contact also dealt with the U.S. threats against Libya. His highness the president expressed the UAE's denunciation of this threat, which is unjustifiable after the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah has categorically denied the existence of a plant for producing chemical weapons on its territory.

His Highness Shaykh Zayid affirmed the UAE supports Libya and considers any aggression on Libya as an aggression against the entire Arab nation.

AL-BAYAN on U.S. 'Threats' Against Libya

JN2512163288 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 24 Dec p 1

[Editorial: "Ethics of Threat and Accusation"]

[Text] American official threats over the past 48 hours, which peaked with possible anti-Libya measures not excluding military action, constitute a rank violation of the sovereignty of a UN member state by a superpower. Further, they amount to interference in the affairs of another country. In principle, threats must be rejected, as must any aggression against any Arab country irrespective of the arguments and excuses made to justify it.

Even brushing aside the production line of the Libyan factory, which the United States contends makes chemical weapons, the assumed product has not been shown to have been used agaianst other states.

The FRG—a U.S. ally—has stated there is nothing to indicate the plant is equipped to manufacture chemical weapons and rejected U.S. charges that West German firms have helped build the facility.

Those who set themselves up as legislators of the ethics governing the use of weaponry should practice what they preach. It just does not stand to reason for one to combine the roles of defense attorney and prosecutor. No party can assign such roles to any quarter. Any party that lays down rules for the production and use of chemical weapons should first set an example.

In any case, Libya has officially denied that it has acquired a plant for the production of such weapons. An argument just now about what is and is not permissible would open Pandora's box.

The major powers themselves are the largest producers of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons, stockpiling them in the thousands of tonnes. The major powers are exporting their nuclear waste to be dumped in the Third World, spreading disease and destroying agricultural land.

The United States should be reminded that it was the first and last nation to use the nuclear bomb. It used weapons in Vietnam that it accuses others of producing and that the Soviets used in Afghanistan.

By reverting to threatened military action, the United States is renewing tension in the region, thus underming its stability and security. The United States knows better than anyone else that the need for Mideast stability has never been so acute. Hopefully, the stirrings of interntional detente will be brought to bear on this region.

Yemen Arab Republic

Statement Condemns U.S. Anti-Libya 'Campaign'

JN2412174088 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Dec 88

[Text] A Foreign Ministry official spokesman has stated the following:

The Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah is being subjected to a hostile campaign and threats of aggressive action against it by the U.S. Administration, claiming it is building a chemical weapons factory.

This is despite repeated Libyan denials and Tripoli's expressed readiness to invite ambassadors accredited to Libya to the opening of this plant, which is specialized in the production of medicines.

Expressing its solidarity with brotherly Libya, the YAR condemns this campaign at this juncture when regional efforts are directed at establishing peace through recognizing the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

The YAR thinks that far from promoting such efforts, this campaign will contribute to regional tension and to a more complex situation.

The YAR is hopeful the U.S. Administration will find the Libyan explanation satisfactory enough to avert unwarranted esclation of tension.

Taya Makes Statement, Leaves Baghdad 25 Dec
JN2512152888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1425 GMT 25 Dec 88

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 25 Dec (INA)—Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, CMSN chairman and president of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, left Baghdad this morning after a 2-day visit to Iraq. [passage omitted]

At the end of his visit to Iraq, Taya expressed his deep thanks and gratitude to Iraq for the hospitality accorded to his delegation. In a statement to an INA correspondent in the VIP lounge, he also affiremed that his talks with President Saddam Husayn were useful and constructive within the framework of joint Arab action. Following is the Mauritanian president's statement to the INA correspondent:

Question: Mr President, at the end of your visit to Iraq and in light of your meeting with President Saddam Husayn, will you please give Iraq's citizens an idea about your impressions of the visit?

Answer: During my meeting with President Saddam Husayn, I expressed in the name of the Mauritanian people and government to his excellency and the fraternal Iraqi people and government our congratulations on the victory achieved in defense of the entire Arab nation's freedom and honor. During our stay in Iraq, we acquainted ourselves with fraternal Iraq's great progress under the leadership of Brother President Saddam Husayn.

The talks I held with President Saddam Husayn centered on Iraqi-Mauritanian relations and the Arab nation's causes. I would like to seize this opportunity to express our deep thanks and gratitude to the fraternal Iraqi people and their leadership for the hospitality accorded us during our stay in Iraq. Thank you. [passage omitted]

INA Commentator Criticizes Iranian Broadcast
JN2412134588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1235 GMT 24 Dec 88

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Dec (INA)—The INA foreign affairs commentator has sharply criticized Iranian hints implied in a commentary by the Persian service of the Tehran broadcasting station today on the use of force, continuation of mobilization, and whipping up war hysteria.

Responding to this, the commentator said Iraq knows very well that Iran is adopting a policy of maneuvering and procrastination toward the direct negotiations and that the repeated hints in the Iranian media and the statements by Iranian officials suggesting that mobilization is continuing and Iranian troops are on constant alert come wiithin the context of Iranian policy, which depends on intimidation, blackmail, and preventing the conversion of the cease-fire into lasting and stable peace.

In a political commentary today, Tehran radio said Iran will remain in a state of alert and readiness to confront Iraq. The radio also said that Iran now needs prepared and competent troops more than ever before.

The INA commentator stressed that the road to peace is clear and known and cannot be blocked by empty threats or allegations. The peace was created by the Iraqis and the Iranians must realize the facts which they themselves have felt.

They have no choice but to recognize the legitimate rights in order to bring about a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace. Their threats on the use of force will prove as useless as their logic of aggression that continued for 8 full years.

He added that the war was decided militarily and Iraq achieved complete victory within several months in 1988. Iraq has liberated its land through effective planning and command and it is more useful for the Iranians to rule out irresponsible threats and to resort to wisdom and reason in discussing their basic problems because any threat to use force will not benefit them.

The commentator urged the Iranian officials to adhere to peace and not to miss the opportunity. He called on them to shoulder their responsibility for bringing about justice and not to place useless obstacles. He added that time is not in favor of Iran and that Iranian officials should immediately start dealing with their countries' problems.

He added that capable Iraq will continue to support just peace and to solve problems peacefully and that it believes in peaceful coexistence as it has done since the beginning of the war 8 years ago.

Country To Attend Meeting on Chemical Warfare
JN2512120288 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1140 GMT 25 Dec 88

[Text] Tunis, 25 Dec (INA)—Iraq today informed the Arab League General Secretariat that it agrees to attend the extraordinary Arab League Council session at the level of permanent representatives that is scheduled to convene here tomorrow to discuss the recent U.S. threats against Libya.

During the meeting, the council will be briefed by the Libyan representative on the implications of the U.S. threat to Libya with respect to the presence of a chemical weapons industry and the perils these threats pose to the state of affairs in the Arab Maghreb region, as well as Libya's readiness to receive an international committee to investigate Libya's abidance by international conventions that ban the production of such weapons.

Libya officially asked the Arab League to hold an extraordinary Arab League Council session to discuss these threats and adopt a united Arab stand thereon.

'Source' Denies Chemical Weapons Sent to Sudan

JN2512201888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1942 GMT 25 Dec 88

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Dec (INA)—A responsible source has denied a report published by the Egyptian weekly nrewspaper AL-HAQIQAH claiming that the Sudanese Armed Forces have acquired chemical weapons from Iraq for use against the separatist forces in southern Sudan.

The source told INA that the report published by the weekly newspaper, the mouthpiece of the Liberal Socialist Party, is completely unfounded. The source affirmed that the report is [words indistinct]. He also advised the newspaper to avoid involvement in publishing such lies so it can keep its credibility.

AL-JUMHURIYAH Article on Al-Faw-1 Missile

JN2212122288 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 19 Dec 88 p 3

[Article by Staff Brigadier General Amjad Hasan al-Zuhayri, retired, entitled: "The Al-Faw-1 Antimissile Missile and Its Strategic Value"]

[Excerpts] In a message sent to President leader Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, the industry and military industrialization minister on Thursday, 1 December 1988, declared the successful manufacture of a missile capable of destroying intermediate-range surface-to-surface missiles at various altitudes in the air before they reach the ground. The minister added this is a new link in the chain of producing very sophisticated weapons.

This is another scientific achievement to be added to the gigantic achievements realized by the military industrialization scientists. This was preceded by an announcement made in July 1987 on the manufacture of the Al-Husayn surface-to-surface missile with a range of 650 km and the manufacture of the Al-'Abbas surface-to-surface missile with a range of 900 km in April 1988. [passage omitted]

Given that surface-to-surface missiles can carry conventional or nuclear warheads to their targets which are set at long distances from the launching pads; given that these missiles have great strategic effects as we noted in the cities' war during the battle of Saddam's Al-Qadisiyah against the Iranian enemy; and given that the Zionist entity possesses long-range missiles supplied with atomic and conventional warheads, the successful experiment of the Al-Faw-1 antimissile missile is an achievement which has very great dimensions on all mobilizational, operational, and strategic levels.

Moreover, the great value of these missiles is that they remove the enemy surface-to-surface missiles from the battlefield and they will at least reduce to a minimum their effects on Iraqi or Arab cities.

Given the Israeli deterrence, represented by the threat to use destructive weapons carried on Israeli missiles, the Al-Faw-1 antimissile missile will greatly contribute to undermining the credibility of deterrence by enemy surface-to-surface missiles and will also secure great freedom of action for Arab states and armies in general and for Iraq in pa.icular to prepare the people and the Armed Forces for fighting any aggression.

The weapons and missiles against tanks, aircraft, and ships have reduced the effects of the latter weapons in the battlefield or in the strategic depth in the country particularly against the enemy air force. The Al-Faw-1 antimissile missile will intercept and destroy enemy surface-to-surface missiles along with their conventional or nuclear warheads.

This will add a very great power to the general and military mobilization in particular by confronting one of the factors of power possessed by the Arab nation's enemies, represented by the surface-to-surface missiles which constitute the only weapon which cannot be confronted by the Arab states.

The freedom of action which will be secured by the Al-Faw-1 antimissile missile has dimensions that are not confined to the military aspect but also include very great political, social, and economic dimensions, especially if the enemy surface-to-surface missiles or projectiles are equipped with highly-destructive atomic warheads against residential areas, economic facilities, or combat forces.

Although planes are an efficient means of carrying atomic bombs or numerous tonnes of explosives to civil or military targets, air defense weapons, including surface-to-air missiles or the interceptors and their air-to-air missiles, can curb the role of the enemy air force.

This was achieved in the glorious battle of Saddam's Al-Qadisiyah when our Air Force and our gigantic Air Defense managed to reduce to a minimum the effect of the Iranian Air Force whether on the mobilizational, operational, or stategic level.

The Al-Faw-1 antimissile missile will be the decisive weapon in the coming war in reducing to a minimum the role of enemy surface-to-surface missiles. The successful experiment of the Al-Faw-1 antimissile missile destroying a surface-to-surface missile in the air is considered a very great strategic achievement for such a state as Iraq.

This successful experiment points to a great technical capability, particularly in the military field. Such an achievement has no equal except in the two superpowers.

The Al-Faw-1 antimissile missile will have strategic effects in the coming war because it can intercept enemy surface-to-surface missiles which carry atomic or conventional warheads, destroying them in the air and preventing them from reaching their targets. Hence, this

missile will secure very great strategic dimensions on the political, military, social, and economic levels, represented by the freedom of action it will provide for Iraq or other Arab states as well as the protection of major vital facilities such as cities and the Armed Forces as well as the vital economic facilities of the war effort.

Every great achievement must be made by great men. The Al-Faw-1 antimissile missile is a great achievement for a state like Iraq. Without the leadership of President leader Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, this achievement would not have been realized. This is because great decisions are made by great men. President Saddam Husayn has made both victory and peace and brought dignity to Iraq and the Arab nation.

Moreover, this achievement was realized by an elite of the president's scientific soldiers among the military industrialization strugglers under his wise leadership and instructions. These strugglers have also secured for our country and the Arab nation a great defensive capability which will place it among the advanced countries in this regard.

Analyst on Merits of Missile

JN2412113588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0810 GMT 24 Dec 88

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Dec (INA)—An Iraqi political analyst contends that Al-Faw-1, an antimissile missile designed to destroy missiles in the air, is part of a general system to defend pan-Arab security.

In an article published today by the Iraqi daily AL-QADISIYAH and the Kuwaiti daily AL-QABAS, Mr Sa'd al-Bazzaz describes the Iraqi defense system as a defense weapon that will always be needed as long as the forces that challenge the Arabs in this decade continue to possess effective ground-to-ground missile systems.

He said the need for this weapon became more pressing after Iran bombed the Iraqi capital Baghdad with 45 missiles over a period of 3 years, beginning in March 1985 and up to February 1988, without Iraq firing a single missile against Tehran.

This constituted a qualitative superiority for Iran. The need for this weapon also became more pressing after Israel announced its possession of the medium-range ground-to-ground Jericho-1 and Jericho-2 missiles capable of reaching capitals including Baghdad.

He stressed that the Iraqi antimissile missiles have now guaranteed the neutralization of missiles and removal of their effect in any forthcoming confrontation between the Arabs and their enemies.

The Iraqi political analyst emphasizes that by announcing the results of the test and the success of the Al-Faw-1 missile, a series of suppositions regarding the Arab-Israeli and the Arab-Iranian conflicts had collapsed. That announcement may be considered a new turning point in the level and administration of the conflict before and after the Al-Faw-1 missile.

Based on this Iraqi achievement, the writer argues that the allegations that Israel is the only technological base in the region and that all countries around it are only fit as a market for its products have fallen. Those allegations would help promote the idea of a dominant Israeli regional function in the Arab surrounding.

The collapse of these allegations, he said, will help shake one of the foundations on which Israel built its strategy in the eighties, which is based on prolonging backwardness in the Arab world and making an Israeli scientific and technological leap that maintains the gap between the capabilities of the two sides and governs any round of the conflict.

He asserted that one result of the Iraqi achievement is to consecrate the state of dormant war and consolidate the outcome of the entire conflict between Iraq and Iran. It will result in Iraq maintaining a series of qualitative achievements in the field of technological developments, which would prevent Iran from benefiting unilaterally from the current halt to the war.

Mr al-Bazzaz points out other merits of the Iraqi defensive weapon, including the fact it can be used without political, practical, moral, or psychological obstacles.

It is a defensive weapon against offensive weapons, used within the framework of the general Iraqi defense system. It is not part of any banned or restricted weapon and its use is permissible. It is more important than any weapon that can be manufactured and it is not listed among the arms designed for threat and pressure purposes.

He stressed that the value of the Iraqi achievement is that it is more important than Israeli achievements if the circumstances of each of Iraq and Israel are taken into consideration.

Iraq developed its capability under the shadow of a declared and undeclared ban on sophisticated and sensitive technology to Iraq, while Israel achieved its technological development under the shadow of comprehensive U.S. and Western protection and an exchange of expertise and information available only to the big powers.

The importance of the Iraqi achievement, he said, also lies in the ability to build a holistic system to destroy missiles, a system that includes control systems, computers, radars, and the manufacture of the missile that is governed by this holistic system. In other words, the importance of the achievement lies in Iraq's ability to

form, assemble, and install all these capabilities in one system. Iraq has manufactured a technological system of compound, complicated, and interdependent processes, thus overcoming all obstacles.

The Iraqi political analyst stressed that the Iraqi achievement in manufacturing and testing the Iraqi missile antimissile Al-Faw-1 provided Iraq with a qualitative superiority, making it able to produce and possess sophisticated weapons and achieve qualitative balance, or to redress the qualitative balance, in the conflict with the forces that challenge the Arabs.

He said that for Iraq, the concept of power is based on a number of historical, cultural, and social factors. Technical additions, such as reaching the stage of industrial production of advanced weapons, are only technical results of covert and overt factors of strength from the Iraqi perspective. In themselves, they do not constitute the highest value.

They are only a reflection of the factors of qualitative and technical superiority resulting from this value in the stage of comprehensive cultural confrontation.

He concluded the political analysis on the results of the Iraqi achievement of producing the Al-Faw-1 antimissile missile saying that the peak reached by the Iraqi military industrialization will be a base for further peaks and a series of successive results of the cultural, historical, qualitative, and technical superiority as a an integral interdependent whole, and that a balance of power between the Arabs and their enemies is not far away.

Shamir 'Very Glad' To Meet Mubarak in Jerusalem
TA2412202388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 24 Dec 88

[Text] The following is Jerusalem's reaction to President Mubarak's remarks on a possible visit to Israel: Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser, says Mr Shamir will be very glad to meet with President Mubarak in Jerusalem and to discuss with him the peace process and the problems both countries are facing on this issue. This was said to our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami this evening.

Peres, Shamir Aide on Mubarak Meeting Proposal
TA2512062588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 25 Dec 88

[Text] The finance minister has said that the decision on new economic measures will be made within a few weeks. Minister Peres was interviewed on our morning newsreel. Late last week, Mr Peres conferred with economic leaders, including the governor of the Bank of Israel, to gain an impression of their opinions on Israel's economic problems. Today the finance minister will meet with the Histadrut secretary general.

On another matter, the vice prime minister welcomed the Egyptian president's remarks on a visit to Israel. At the same time, he noted that one should not act rigidly or present preconditions for talks. He said this in reaction to an announcement by President Mubarak that he is prepared to visit Israel and hold meetings with its leaders if this can promote peace in the region.

Earlier, the prime minister's media adviser said that Mr Shamir wishes to review the full text of Mubarak's remarks first, and only then will he issue his reaction. At the same time, the prime minister will be happy to meet with the Egyptian president in Jerusalem and discuss the peace process with him.

Cabinet Secretary Comments on Mubarak Remarks
TA2512114588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 25 Dec 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Asked if the Cabinet discussed remarks made by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak concerning his possible visit to Israel to advance the peace process, Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein said:

[Begin Rubinstein recording] It was mentioned in the... what was already published before, that the prime minister hopes the visit could take place. Technically, I understand the ministers have not yet seen the text of the announcement. Nevertheless, of course he will be welcome to visit our country. [end recording]

In other business, the Cabinet voted to establish the Ministry for Environmental Affairs to be headed by Roni Milo. [passage omitted]

Shamir on Peace Plans, U.S.-PLO Dialogue
TA2512182888 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Dec 88

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Me'ir Kohen in Shamir's office on 25 December, in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles—videotaped]

[Text] [Kohen] You recently told me that you intend to take initiatives and actions in connection with the peace process. Prime Minister, now that you have set up the government, can you tell us how you intend to begin this process?

[Shamir] I can prepare to take several actions in the direction of encouraging efforts to advance peace, which I will do in the coming days and weeks. The very action reveals its intention. I do not wish to go into details beforehand because the details are still under consideration and in preparation.

[Kohen] Can you speak about it in general terms?

[Shamir] The general outline is the advancement of peace. We will appeal to all the elements—those who are important in advancing peace—and propose to them ways to work together with us in improving the situation in the region. We will call on them to work together for peace.

[Kohen] The president of Egypt expressed readiness to come to Israel on the condition that the visit yields results. What can you say in response to President Mubarak this evening?

[Shamir] I am pleased about his wish and readiness to visit us for talks on everything linked to the general peace in the region; and, of course, to improve relations between us and Egypt. I will be very happy to receive him in Israel and enter a detailed dialogue on how to do it.

I know President Mubarak is interested in investing great effort, and I think—I am sure—that if we meet and hold discussions, we will achieve positive results. I cannot say that there will be full agreement between us, but I assume that we will advance the peace process.

[Kohen] Do you personally place importance on Egypt's role in the peace process?

[Shamir] I think that Egypt, the most important Arab country, can be—and must be—an important factor with the capability of advancing peace between us and all our neighbors, not only between us and Egypt.

[Kohen] Prime minister, you called on King Husayn to respond to your peace call and to enter into negotiations immediately together with representatives of the territories. Do you have any basis for believing that the call will be accepted?

[Shamir] That depends on King Husayn. I cannot penetrate his heart and mind. I hope he will respond.

[Kohen] Is that within the framework of those same thoughts that you plan to advance in the political process?

[Shamir] It certainly is, since the aim is the same.

[Kohen] You also expressed readiness and a desire to create conditions for coexistence and peace with the inhabitants of the territories. There are those who ask how you plan to do that.

[Shamir] I think that when we enter negotiations—which must be all-embracing and include the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el who reside in the territories of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, as well as those in the surrounding Arab countries—one of the issues and results of these negotiations must be to create a situation in which the inhabitants of these areas will work together with the State of Israel to create a framework of joint relations which will advance the entire region to true peace. This is in the spirit of the agreements on which I base myself, the Camp David accords.

[Kohen] But how will these representatives be chosen, prime minister?

[Shamir] That is clear. I said that according to the Camp David accords, the first thing that will be done in these regions after signing the autonomy agreement are elections for the administrative council, which should be the body which handles the daily lives of the Arabs in these areas and will also be the legitimate repesentative of the Palestinian Arabs in negotiations on the permanent settlement.

[Kohen] Does it matter who those representatives will be or what their political identification or tendencies are?

[Shamir] When the Camp David accords were signed, the assumption was that whoever participates in these negotiations and those who stand in these elections will be interested in maintaining peace with Israel. We therefore assume that those who will be elected will be interested in peace with us.

[Kohen] Mr Prime Minister, in view of 'Arafat's refusal to include in the category of terrorism the events in the territories and terrorist actions against Israeli targets, will Israel call on the United States to stop the dialogue with the PLO

[Shamir] We are demanding it from the United States First of all, what is happening is that people are being led astray by the PLO's declarations. This must end.

[Kohen] Does this have repercussions on our relations with the United States?

[Shamir] I do not think that the PLO's actions should drive a wedge in our relations with the United States, which are so strong and firm that they will not be disturbed or changed for the worse because of actions by others. Nevertheless, we demand that the United States correct the mistake it made.

[Kohen] Next month a new President will take over the White House. Are you planning to travel to Washington?

[Shamir] I think I will have to go to Washington, as has been the custom with all administrations over the years. It will probably be not long after the new President takes office.

[Kohen] Mr Shamir, are there signs that the USSR and other countries are about to renew relations with Israel?

[Shamir] I cannot speak for them, of course, but it is not inconceivable that in one of the coming days we will succeed in seeing the USSR and its allies decide to change their policy in regard to Israel and decide to renew relations with us—because in the final analysis it will also serve their interests.

[Kohen] Will this also be the case in Africa?

[Shamir] You are referring, of course, to what happened recently in Kenya. I do not see any reason why the rest of Africa cannot restore diplomatic relations with us, as it is a basic assumption that all countries in the world should maintain normal relations. In their relations with Israel, African countries should certainly not be the exceptions.

[Kohen] To return to the political process, prime minister, would you say that 1989 will be a year of movement in the political process?

[Shamir] That depends not only on us, of course, but to the extent that it does, it will certainly be a year of great efforts to advance peace between us and our neighbors.

Shamir Said 'Examining New Ideas' on Peace Issues

TA2612064088 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Dec 88 p 1

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Menahem Shalev]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Shamir said yesterday that he is confident a summit meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak would yield "positive results."

Israel's ambassador to Cairo Shim'on Shamir will today check whether Mubarak's comments in an interview published in the Kuwaiti AL-ANBA' indicated a practical willingness on his part to come to Israel and meet with Shamir in the near future.

Well-placed sources in the Prime Minister's Office said last night that Shamir is examining "new ideas" to propel the peace process forward. The sources said that Shamir is willing to deviate from certain elements in the Camp David accords, as long as the general aim and framework of the agreements are kept intact.

The sources noted, however, that contrary to the position espoused in recent months by the Labour Party, Shamir believes that elections in the territories should be held only after [preceding word in italics] the successful conclusion of talks on autonomy, and does not view the elections as a mechanism for creating Palestinian representation for the talks themselves.

The sources noted that common ground with Egypt could be found in Shamir's agreement for talks on an interim solution to be held under superpower auspices. The expected sticking point would be the matter of Palestinian representation, especially in light of the Egyptian promotion of the PLO's recently-moderated positions. [passage omitted]

Officials in Jerusalem said that Mubarak appeared to be repeating his oft-stated position by which he will agree to meet Shamir only after a prior concession by Israel. The sources said that Ambassador Shamir would be asked to find out whether Mubarak remained attached to this "preconditon." [passage omitted]

Shamir Staff on Possible Mubarak Visit, Peace

TA2612200688 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Text] The prime minister may ask the United States and the Soviet Union to sponsor Middle East peace talks. The above was reported this evening by the director of the prime minister's bureau. Mr Shamir may show flexibility regarding certain articles in the Camp David accords, he added. Our political correspondent Yig'al Goren reports from the studio:

The prime minister will be prepared to show flexibility on certain points in the Camp David agreements regarding the Palestinian issue. One of his reasons for doing so will be to make it easier on the Egyptian president to decide to visit Israel.

The above was reported this evening by Yosi Ahime'ir, director of the Prime Minister's bureau, who claimed that Yitzhaq Shamir truly wishes to include Jordan in the political process, to block the PLO. This, according to Ahime'ir, requires Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's clout.

Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, on the other hand, explained a short while ago that Yitzhaq Shamir has no reason to change the Camp David accords despite the importance of a potential visit by the Egyptian president to Israel.

Meanwhile, it turns out that people in Israel have indulged in exaggerated interpretations of the Egyptian president's remark, given in a newspaper interview, that he wishes to visit Israel. Senior Egyptian sources explained this evening that the Egyptian president meant to say that he would come to Israel only if the appropriate conditions to justify such a visit materialize—in other words, a change in Yitzhaq Shamir's political positions.

Members of the Prime Minister's Office staff this evening cooled the great expectations for an impending political initiative on behalf of the prime minister. They wish to make it clear that no initiative will be launched before it is coordinated with and examined by the United States, Egypt, and Jordan, and that this process will take a long time. The PLO, meanwhile, is continuing to enjoy its successful campaign worldwide, particularly in the United States and Europe.

'Clandestine Contacts' on Mubarak Visit Under Way

TA2712080288 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 27 Dec 88 p 1

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is ready to launch a political process between Israel and a Palestinian representation. A message in this vein was relayed yesterday to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. The offices of Shamir and Mubarak are maintaining clandestine contacts with regard to the conditions for Mubarak's possible visit in Israel.

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 27 December, in a report by Ilan Bakhar and Shefi Gabay on pages one and two, adds: "In a telephone conversation last night, Prof Shim'on Shamir, Israel's ambassador to Egypt, told MA'ARIV that the talk about a possible visit by Mubarak to Israel is premature. He stressed that the Egyptian leadership is currently waiting for Israel to formulate a practical political plan."]

Shamir plans to appeal in the near future to George Bush and Mikha'il Gorbachev, requesting their patronage for his new political plan.

Arens Relays Message to Jordan's Husayn

TA2712113288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 27 Dec 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens has sent a message to King Husayn. Arens told the king that Israel considers him an important partner in the peace process and is seriously considering Jordan's positions.

The message will be transferred through American Senator Jay Rockefeller, who met with Arens this morning. Rockefeller is traveling tomorrow to Amman.

Ben-Aharon Discusses Shamir's 'Peace Initiative'

TA2612124188 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 26 Dec 88 pp A1, 2

[Report by Ilan Bakhar and Shefi Gabay]

[Text] The MA'ARIV correspondent has learned that the new peace initiative being formulated by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is based on the Camp David accords. It will be very flexible in terms of the timetable for the establishment of autonomy in the territories until negotiations are held to determine the final status of the territories. It will also be very flexible in terms of the composition of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

[In a report by Arye Hazkell, Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1100 GMT on 26 December adds: "Among possible ideas being considered by the prime minister to get around the deep opposition he has to an international peace conference is for the United States and the Soviet Union to provide a joint umbrella for direct talks with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. When this idea was first made some time ago Yitzhaq Shamir did not rule it out." Referring to an unnamed source, the reporter says that "nothing substantive can be expected in the immediate future. The source said that the prime minister, once he has drawn up his program, will first unveil it to the Inner Cabinet and will subsequently take it to Washington for discussion with the new Bush Administration."]

Yosef Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, disclosed last night that the peace initiative will be effected in several phases until the final status of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip is determined. In an interview with MA'ARIV, Ben-Aharon said that "a plan with a more acceptable logic than this one has never yet been invented." According to him, the process would start with negotiations between Jordan and a Palestinian delegation—assisted by Egypt—to determine the autonomy arrangements.

The final status of these territories would later be determined in negotiations and with the approval of the sides. Shamir reiterated last night in an interview on television's Arabic program that he would be glad to host President Husni Mubarak in Israel. "I am sure that if we meet and hold discussions we will arrive at positive results," Shamir said.

Reacting to Mubarak's remarks that he would not come to Israel if the trip turns out to be unproductive, Ben-Aharon said: "President Mubarak's trip to Israel would not be unproductive. There is definitely cause for him to visit here."

Ben-Aharon told MA'ARIV that Mubarak's remarks may have been made in response to the prime minister's call in the Knesset last week for him and King Husayn to come to a dialogue without any preconditions in order to advance the peace process. "Every dialogue has its own dynamics. If the will exists to advance the process toward a settlement—and there is such a will in Israel—such a meeting would presumably yield positive results," Ben-Aharon concluded.

FRG's STERN Cited on Interview With Arens

LD2612183388 Hamburg DPA in German 1345 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Text] Hamburg (DPA)—New Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens has affirmed the Jerusalem government's rejection of negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). In an interview with the Hamburg magazine STERN Arens has said that in the Israeli-occupied West Bank only a "limited Palestinian autonomy" was "conceivable with elections after the Camp David conceptions of Sadat and Begin," instead of an independent Palestinian state.

A change in the Jerusalem government policy was not to be expected, for "we of the (conservative) Likud have won the election." Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir no longer had to share power with the leader of the Labor Party, Shim'on Peres. The coalition with the Social-Democrats would not change this. He believe in Great Israel, within her biblical frontiers, the new foreign minister said.

The fact that the United States advocated a different position concerning negotiations with the PLO than the Israeli Government will bring about no substantial changes in bilateral relations. The United States remains Israel's best friend, Arens said.

The interview, which will appear in the next STERN edition, was prereleased to DPA on Monday.

New Cabinet Holds First Meeting 25 Dec

TA2512095588 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 25 Dec 88

[Excerpts] The first session held by this Cabinet ended in Jerusalem a short while ago. It approved the composition of the Inner Cabinet, and discussed other formalities regarding the regulations governing the Cabinet's functioning. Our correspondent Natan Gutman reports from the Prime Minister's Office:

The Cabinet's first session lasted only 1 hour, or actually a little less. It dealt mainly with technicalities and formalities. Thus, the composition of the Inner Cabinet was endorsed and the Cabinet's operative regulations were approved. The ministerial committees have not yet been established and may be ratified next week.

Of the 24 ministers who attended today's Cabinet session, 6 are new faces and 18 are veterans. [passage omitted]

As in all previous meetings, the ministers heard reports by the defense minister and the police affairs minister.

Again, this was largely a meeting dedicated to formalities. The Inner Cabinet was decided upon. The two new members of the political-defense Inner Cabinet are Minister Moshe Arens of the Likud and Minister Moshe Shahal of the Alignment. They joined the Inner Cabinet, which will actually make the decisions.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew on 24 December at 1700 GMT identifies the Likud participants in the Inner Cabinet as "the prime minister and Ministers Levi, Arens, Sharon, Moda'i, and Nisim." The report continues, "Participating on behalf of the Alignment will be Ministers Peres, Rabin, Bar-Lev, Weizman, Navon, and probably also Shahal."]

Cabinet Approves Ministry Appointments

TA2512101988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 25 Dec 88

[Excerpts] Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami has just reported that the appointments of Binyamin Netanyahu as deputy foreign minister, Yosi Beilin as deputy finance minister, and Rabbi Moshe Feldman of Agudat Yisra'el as deputy minister of labor and social welfare have been approved. [passage omitted]

Health Ministry Director General Yoram Lass will remain in his post. He was informed of this decision by incoming Health Minister Ya'aqov Tzur. [passage omitted]

The Cabinet heard reports from the defense and police affairs ministers on last week's incidents in the territories, and approved the appointment of Dov Qehat as director general of the Interior Ministry. [passage omitted]

NRP Elects Hammer Religious Affairs Minister

TA2612054488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Zvulun Hammer will be the next minister of religious affairs. In a surprise development, the National Religious Party [NRP] has given Hammer the position over party leader Avner Sciaki. Sciaki will be a minister without portfolio. [passage omitted]

IDF Kills 3 'Terrorists' in Security Zone

TA2612151988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Text] Three terrorists were killed by the IDF in the central sector of the security zone in southern Lebanon last night. Our forces suffered no casualties. Our correspondents Karmela Menashe and Hayim Hecht report that the terrorists were on their way to the Israeli border.

An IDF patrol spotted them only several dozen meters from the border fence, in the area between Kibbutz Yiftah and Ramim. Kalashnikov rifles, magazines, flak jackets, and pamphlets were found near the terrorists' bodies.

'Terrorist' Enclave Forming in South Lebanon

TA2512131288 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 25 Dec 88 p 1

[Report by military correspondent Avi Bnayahu]

[Text] Security elements have noticed an intensive effort by Palestinian terrorist organizations to set up a large Palestinian enclave, including a military infrastructure, along the Lebanese coast, especially between Tyre in the south and Beirut in the north. During the past year, hundreds of Fatah terrorists, armed and organized in military frameworks, have been brought to Tyre, which is only a few kilometers north of the security zone.

Security sources feel that as soon as the struggle with the Shi'ites ends, the terrorists will turn their efforts against targets along Israel's northern border. According to various assessments, there are currently over 10,000 terrorists in the coastal area.

Security elements question the extent of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's control over his forces in the coastal area, estimating that he will have difficulty imposing his will and intentions on all the Palestinian terrorist groups in Lebanon.

Rabin Briefs Knesset on 16 Dec Nabulus Incidents

TA2612182988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Text] The defense minister has said that the solution to the problem of the territories and the violence that broke out there will be found around the negotiating table. Meanwhile it is necessary to stand firm and show forbearance, not defeatism and tearfulness.

Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that in response to motions to the Knesset agenda, Minister Rabin reported on the incidents in Nabulus approximately 2 weeks ago in which five Arabs were killed and another three died of their injuries later. He emphasized that

during the funeral procession that morning there were no incidents, but that 10 disturbances were recorded later, during which residents were injured and killed.

No women or children were among the casualties, however, noted Minister Rabin. He said he is convinced that the IDF soldiers acted properly and in accordance with the regulations. Those who throw rocks and Molotov cocktails should be aware of the fact that they are assuming tremendous risks, he stressed.

Replying to a question by Knesset Member Sarid of the Citizens Rights Movement, the defense minister said that the officer probing the case, Brigadier General M., may not have heard the testimony of the locals on what had happened in Nabulus. He pointed out that in trying to reimpose order, the soldiers used plastic bullets and live ammunition for between 15 and 30 minutes.

Further on Casualties, Incidents in Territories

Nabulus Man Dies of Wounds

TA2412112288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 24 Dec 88

[Text] Al-Maqasid Hospital in East Jerusalem reported today that another man wounded in the Nabulus riots some 2 weeks ago has died. The man is Jihad 'Amri, 22, who died last night of the wounds he suffered during the riots. This brought the number of fatalities caused during that weekend to seven.

'Suspicious Object' Kills 2

TA2412203088 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 24 Dec 88

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] A 10-year-old child was wounded in the Jabalyah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip today by soldiers' fire while stone throwers were being dispersed. [passage omitted]

Two local residents of the village of Marj Na'jah in the Jordan Valley were killed and three wounded while handling a suspicious object.

Strike, Curfew in Gaza

TA2512112188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 25 Dec 88

[Text] A Molotov cocktail was thrown at an IDF patrol in the center of Ramallah this morning. No one was hurt and no damage was caused. The security forces immediately cordoned off the area and launched searches to find the perpetrators of the act.

There is a commercial strike in Gaza today. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that security forces imposed a curfew on the Al-Shaja'iyah neighborhood of Gaza. Early this morning the curfew was lifted from the Rafah refugee camp and from the Tall al-Sultan neighborhood.

1 Killed, 8 Hurt in Gaza

TA2512143288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 25 Dec 88

[Text] One person was killed and eight were wounded when disturbances were broken up in the Gaza Strip. The incidents were reported by our correspondent Moti Amir, who said that an IDF patrol was stoned in the Jabalyah refugee camp. The IDF spokesman for the Southern Command said that several stone throwers attacked a soldier, who fired and killed one of his assailants, 17-year-old Ra'id Rushdi Tamara, when his life became endangered.

The spokesman also reported that two youths were wounded in Khan Yunus when soldiers broke up a demonstration. Gaza Strip residents said that four other youths were wounded in the Jabalyah incident, and another four during the Khan Yunus incident and in Gaza city. The IDF is investigating the validity of the claims.

The security forces this morning imposed a curfew on the Nur al-Shams refugee camp near Tulkarm because of unrest there. Last night, camp residents pulled down the fence that prevented them from hurling stones at passing vehicles; the fence separated the camp from the main road.

Further on 25 Dec Incidents

TA2612125788 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Dec 88 p 1

[Report by Joel Greenberg, Joshua Brilliant, and Andy Court]

[Excerpts] Troops shot and killed a Palestinian in the Gaza Strip, another died of wounds sustained more than a week ago in Nabulus, and 19 others were reported wounded in clashes yesterday in the territories. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 25 December reports: "Muhammad Nasir A'war, 20, died today of his wounds in Al-Maqasid Hospital in East Jerusalem. He was wounded in the Nabulus riots 10 days ago and is the eighth fatality from those incidents."]

In Bethlehem, pilgrims marked Christmas by celebrating mass at the Church of the Nativity while soldiers chased stone-throwers outside. A group of youths shouting "Allah Akbar" hurled stones at the soldiers near the Manger Square police station, and the troops gave chase through alleys, but did not open fire. [passage omitted]

In the Gaza Strip yesterday, a soldier shot and killed Ra'id Admaydah, 17, at the Jabalyah refugee camp, setting off a mass demonstration by some 2,000 camp residents. Troops fired in the air, lobbed tear gas at the crowd, and eventually clamped a curfew on the entire camp—the largest in the Gaza Strip.

A curfew was also imposed on the Al-Shaja'iyah neighborhood in Gaza City, bringing to 100,000 the number of people confined to their homes. A 12-year-old boy was seriously wounded in the abdomen during clashes at Al-Am'ari refugee camp, Palestinians said, and a teenager wounded in the leg in neighbouring Ramallah. [passage omitted] A total of 10 persons were reported wounded Saturday in clashes at Maythalun, Kafr al-Dik, Dayr Istiya and Qarawat Bani Hasan. [passage omitted]

At the Tulkarm refugee camp, a 10 year-old-boy was wounded when he was hit by a petrol bomb hurled at an army jeep, Palestinians said. In Nabulus, a leaflet signed by the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising" expressed condolences to relatives of passengers killed in the crash of the Pan Am jet over Scotland. The handbill condemned terrorism and charged that Palestinians in the territories were victimized daily by Israeli "state terrorism." [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 26 December, in a report by Pinhas 'Inbari on page three, adds: "The leaflet has a novel signature: The Unified National Command—State of Palestine"]

Update on Events 26 Dec

TA2712115488 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 27 Dec 88 p 12

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpts] Heavy rains kept most demonstrators home in the West Bank yesterday, but three Palestinians were reported shot and wounded in clashes that erupted during IDF raids on villages in the Tulkarm area. Palestinians reported several persons hospitalized after being beaten by troops.

At the Al-Duhayshah refugee camp near Bethlehem, stones were thrown at an Egged bus, injuring a woman, passengers reported. They said that after the incident, they got off the bus and caught two boys who they turned over to the security forces.

A 12-year-old boy was slightly injured when a rock was thrown at a car at Ra's al-'Ayzariyah, near Jerusalem.

Troops shot and wounded three persons at Kafr Jammal near Tulkarm during clashes sparked by an army raid to make arrests and force residents to paint over nationalist graffiti. Raids were also reported at Kafr Sur and Kafr 'Abbush. [passage omitted]

Tax-raids and clashes were also reported in Tulkarm, but a curfew on the neighbouring Nur al-Shams refugee camp was lifted. A tax-raid was reported at Kafr Thulth, but underground leaflets in the village urged residents not to pay the taxes. [passage omitted]

Palestinians continue to report instances in which troops have severely beaten persons in their homes, or after arresting them: A 39-year-old woman from Qalqilyah was taken to Al-Ittihad Hospital in Nabulus after she was clubbed on the head; a 24-year-old man from Nabulus was taken to Rafidiyah Hospital with beating injuries after two days in detention; a 20-year-old from the village Bazzariyah had his right hand broken when troops beat him in his home. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0505 GMT on 27 December adds: "A Molotov cocktail was thrown yesterday at a house in the Sha'are Tiqva settlement. The firebomb missed the window, shattered, and fell to the ground. Settlers said that this sets a new record in the outrages perpetrated against them."]

Fadallah Denounces Possible Sabotage of Pan Am Jet
NC2312185288 Paris AFP in English 1846 GMT 23 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Beirut, Dec 23 (AFP)--The spiritual leader of the pro-Iranian fundamentalist group Hizballah, Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, on Friday denounced the possible sabotage of the Pan American jumbo jet that crashed in Scotland on Wednesday killing at least 275 people.

"If sabotage is established, we denounce it as we did for the Iranian plane," Shaykh Fadlallah said in reference to the U.S. Navy's missile attack on a civilian Iran Air jetliner over the Gulf on July 3. [passage omitted]

Says Israel Involved in Crash
NC2412072688 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0650 GMT 24 Dec 88

[Text] Ayatollah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has said: Just as we denounced America's downing of the Iranian civilian plane over the Gulf, we also denounce the downing of planes in principle and consider such actions to be criminal. We believe that Israel had a hand in this. The incident may well be an act of Israeli sabotage carried out for revenge.

Meanwhile, the Libyan Foreign Liaison Bureau in Rome has denied any Libyan involvement in the disaster of the Pan American airliner crash in Scotland.

Iranian Embassy Denies Involvement in Crash
NC2412125988 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 230 GMT 24 Dec 88

[Text] The Islamic Republic's Embassy in Beirut today issued a statement on the crash of the U.S. airliner last Wednesday night. The statement categorically denies any involvement on the part of the Islamic Republic and the islamic Revolution's Guard in this regrettable incident. Prime Minister Husayn al-Musavi and the Iranian Foreign Ministry had previously emphasized this.

The Embassy's statement draws attention to the role of some Iranians who oppose the Islamic revolution and do not hesitate to harm the Islamic Republic. The statement says that the Iranian people, who have tasted the bitterness of the ugly acts, cannot but condemn such crimes and offer condolences to the victims families.

In conclusion, the statement of the Islamic Republic's Embassy in Beirut expresses the hope that the international news agencies and various media do not become swept away by the goals of the enemies of the Islamic revolution as this would mislead the investigation and encourage those who tamper with the information media and try to harm the Islamic Republic with their fabricated reports.

Groups' Agreement Considered End to 'Camps War'
NC2312181488 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 23 Dec 88

[Text] A meeting was held at the Nasirite Popular Organization headquarters in Sidon today.

Attending were Dr Usamah Sa'd, deputy secretary of the Nasirite Popular Organization; Attorney Haytham Jum'ah, Amal Movement Political Bureau member; Muhammad Salih, for the Amal Movement; and representatives of the nationalist and Islamic forces and of the Palestinian groups.

After the meeting ended at 1300, Dr Sa'd stated that a working paper submitted by the Nasirite Popular Organization was endorsed.

The paper provides for organizing relations between the Amal Movement and the Palestinians to complete Amal leader Minister Nabih Birri's initiative and the overture of Nasirite Popular Organization leader Engineer Musataf Sa'd.

Following are the most important points examined at the meeting:

1. Consolidation of a comprehensive cease-fire to be monitored by the Nasirite Popular Organization in preparation for abolishing the combat lines.

2. The lifting of the siege of the Al-Rashidiyah camp.

3. Securing freedom of work and travel.

4. The return of evacuees and halting raids and detention except for security reasons.

5. Consolidation of relations with the Palestinian groups in their representational capacity and in coordination with the camps' popular committees.

6. Renovation of the camps and nearby areas.

7. Ensuring free military action against the enemy through a joint room of operations.

8. Ensuring freedom of expression for the camps.

9. Reopening of the medical and social services centers.

10. Reopening of the roads to be carried out under the supervision of the Nasirite Popular Organization, which will be in charge of the committees formed in Sidon and Tyre. This agreement will be implemented as quickly as possible.

Dr Sa'd praised the efforts made by the nationalist forces and declared that the Maghdushah Road has been reopened without any barriers, noting that checkpoints will be set up.

Attorney Jum'ah said: We thank the Nasirite Popular Organization for patronizing these meetings and for the agreement reached today, which is a continuation of brother Nabih Birri's initiative and the overture set forth by Nasirite Popular Organization leader Eng Mustafa Sa'd. He said that this agreement is considered to be an end to the so-called camps war. He stressed that the pact is an agreement between the nationalist forces and the Palestinian groups.

According to reports from the south, a new road will be opened and ramparts will be removed from the scenes of clashes between the Amal Movement and the Palestinians. A meeting is scheduled to take place this evening at the home of Eng Mustafa Sa'd to consolidate this agreement. Sources that participated in the contacts between Amal and the Palestinians pointed out that the road from Iqlim al-Tuffah to Al-Qurayyah to Kafr Hatta is scheduled to be reopened within 48 hours.

AFP: 'Senior' DFLP Official Killed Near Sidon

NC2512163488 Paris AFP in English 1629 GMT 25 Dec 88

[Text] Beirut, Dec 25 (AFP)—Unidentified gunmen shot dead a senior official of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) near Sidon on Saturday, the DFLP said on Sunday.

Salih Mahmud 'Abbas, aged 35, was shot as he walked home from 'Ayn al-Hulwah Palestinian refugee camp near the southern port.

The DFLP, one of the principal groups in the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), accused Israel and "forces opposed to our people's national rights" of carrying out the slaying.

A DFLP communique said the killing was a result of a peace accord signed Friday that aims to end three years of fighting between the Shi'ite Moslem militia Amal and Palestinian forces.

Hizballah's Al-Musawi on Amal, UNIFIL

NC2412091788 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 24 Dec 88

[Text] Asked during an interview with our radio whether Hizballah and Amal should be disarmed as a means of stopping their fighting, brother Husayn al-Musawi said: We are saddened to hear such proposals at a time when Israel is threatening us and planning actions against the Islamic positions on the coast and inland in order to silence the voice of the strugglers.

Al-Musawi added: Disarming Muslims will only benefit Israel and the Israeli interests which are being promoted by 'Awn and Ja'Ja' in the name of the Maronites.

As for efforts to end inter-Shi'ite strife, Al-Musawi said that the strife can only end when there are no longer plans by one party to finish off another or to force one party to operate under the umbrella of councils or quarters which have failed to secure the bare minimum of the believers' confidence due to their weakness and irresponsibility.

Concerning the efforts to reconcile Amal and Hizballah, Al-Musawi said: We never spare efforts or waste opportunities to end the dispute with our brothers, because we know that together we are the target of Zionist schemes. Zionists do not see us as being different. We are brothers; we have one home and one arena.

Al-Musawi mentioned that the brothers in the Islamic Republic and in Syria are determined to help Hizballah and Amal end the abnormal situation. Efforts, he said, are underway to resolve problems emanating from unrealistic assumptions and opinions.

Asked about the call for the West Beirut army to take charge of security and defense in the Islamic areas, Al-Musawi said: We will approve it as soon as we are confident that the army has the doctrinal, political, logistical, and military capability to carry out this task; in other words, when we are confident that the army is ready to fight against Israel, and not against the underdogs who are fighting Israel.

Concerning the incident in which elements from the UNIFIL were detained in the South, Al-Musawi said:

The UNIFIL was created to protect the security of Israel. The UNIFIL command has openly announced that it has prevented scores of operations by the Islamic resistance. The UNIFIL has never moved to deter Zionist aggression. On the contrary, it is facilitating the movement of the Zionists. We were hoping that the faithful would not detain elements from the UNIFIL, but this did not justify raids on the strugglers' homes, the intimidation of their relatives, or the numerous arrests that were carried out.

Asked for his assessment of the first international conference in support of the Islamic uprising in Palestine, Al-Musawi said: This was a commendable effort carried out in homage to the blood of the martyrs of the blessed uprising, in support of its victorious march, and in response to the traitorous stands of 'Arafat.

We heard honest voices, particularly that of struggler Ahmad Jibril, who fought alongside his brothers in Al-Na'imah and in the airspace of Palestine [reference to hang glider attack launched by Jibril-led PFLP-GC]. These strugglers believe in their rights as Muslims to restore the land and the holy places.

We salute these strugglers and seek to strengthen our coalition with them. We call for the practical implementation of the recommendations of the conference in the face of the servile and conspiratory leaders.

Palestinian Group To Release 2 Valente Daughters

Time, Place Not Specified

NC2412211788 Paris AFP in English 2111 GMT 24 Dec 88

[Text] Beirut, Dec 24 (AFP)—The extremist Palestinian group Fatah-Revolutionary Council (FRC) announced here Saturday that it had decided to release the two small daughters of a Frenchwoman it is holding hostage after an appeal by Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

"After Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's appeal...our movement has decided to release Marie-Laure and Virginie," FRC spokesman Walid Khalid said in a telephone call to Agence France-Presse, without saying where or when they would be freed.

The two girls are the daughters of Jacqueline Valente, a Frenchwoman seized along with five Belgians more than a year ago in the eastern Mediterranean.

Girls' Relatives Arrive

NC2512113288 Paris AFP in English 1125 GMT 25 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Beirut, Dec 25 (AFP)—Hopes soared on Christmas Sunday that two young French girls held by Abu Nidal's Palestinian extremist group would soon be free, after an informed source said the release process had begun.

The girls are "on their way," said the source, just hours after the Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC) announced it had decided to free the girls in response to a Christmas Eve appeal by Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

The girls, six-year-old Marie-Laure and her sister Virginie, four, [ages as received] were seized by the FRC in November 1987 along with their mother, Jacqueline Valente and five Belgians aboard the yacht "Silco" in the eastern Mediterranean.

The FRC, an extremist Palestinian faction backed by Libya and Syria, accused the adults of being Israeli agents.

French charge d'affaires in Lebanon, Louis Levert, arrived Sunday morning in an armored car at Hotel Cavalier in Moslem West Beirut to meet the girls' grandmother, father and uncle who are visiting to plead for their release.

Mr Levert discussed the "conditions" of a possible release and "the location where it could take place," said a source who attended the meeting. He then left for the French chancellery in West Beirut surrounded by his bodyguards.

The relatives—Jacqueline Valente's mother Brigitte, her brother-in-law Andre Metral and her estranged husband Pascal Betille, the two girls' father—were to meet Sunday with FRC spokesman Walid Khalid. [passage omitted]

Family Meets With Khalid

NC2512125588 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1233 GMT 25 Dec 88

[Text] The family of French hostage Jaqueline Valente is still in West Beirut awaiting the release of Jaqueline's daughters, Marie-Laure and Virginie. The family arrived in Beirut yesterday to meet with Marie-Laure and Virginie. They met in Mar Ilyas camp today with Palestinian official Walid Khalid, who confirmed that the two girls will be freed, but did not specify a time or venue for their release.

Walid Khalid mentioned that the two girls will be given a videotape showing Jaqueline Valente together with other prisoners of the "Silco" yacht. [Paris AFP in English at 1244 GMT on 25 December in a similar report adds: "The FRC spokesman later said that the release of the girls would "be done by stages and in a secure place, for security reasons and to assure that they reach France safe and sound."

Pressed for details about the "safe place," Mr Khalid added: "I will tell you later whether you should stay in Beirut any longer to pick up the little ones."]

Videos of Hostages Released

NC2512175588 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 25 Dec 88

[Text] Walid Khalid, spokesman of the Fatah Revolutionary Council [FRC] today distributed five videotapes among reporters showing six hostages. Jaqueline Valente, her Belgian friend Fernand Houtekins, his brother Emmanuel and his wife Goldlieve Ketz appear on the first four tapes. The children of Emmanuel and Goldlieve Laurent [as heard] appear on the fifth tape. All hostages appear wearing Palestinian keffiyah [headdress].

[Paris AFP in English in a related report datelined Beirut and transmitted at 1741 GMT on 25 December adds the following:

"The extremist Palestinian group released five video cassettes to the hostages' families and the media with messages from hostages Jacqueline Valente, Goldlieve Ketz, Fernand Houtekins, Emmanuel Houtekins and Valerie Houtekins.

The videos did not include footage of the two girls, correspondents said.

Donning a traditional Palestinian keffiyah headdress, Jacqueline Valente said in one tape that she and her family were healthy and confirmed that she was pregnant again.

Mrs. Valente gave birth to a third child last Christmas Day and is now expecting a fourth by her Belgian companion Fernand Houtekins, according to the FRC.

'The Palestinian fighters are very nice to us and we lack nothing,' she said. 'The day of our release, I plan to leave for a country other than France to pick up the pieces.'

Another hostage, Emmanuel Houtekins, urged Belgians 'not to pay attention to the Zionists, because we are prisoners while Israelis live freely in Belgium and other European countries.'

He also called on Belgian King Baudouin and the country's government to help in securing the hostages' release.

The six [as received] taped messages all mentioned decent treatment by the captors and several hostages said they were given proper meals, heating in winter and were kept in a large apartment.

Mrs. Valente's daughters' imminent release has been announced several times, but the FRC subsequently said the girls did not want to be separated from their mother."]

Relatives To Depart 26 Dec

NC2612104088 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Text] After hopes have faded for the release of the two girls Marie-Laure and Virginie, who are being held in Beirut, the family of their mother Jaqueline Valente will leave Lebanon at midday today.

A spokesman for the Fatah revolutionary Council, a group led by Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna], had promised that the two girls would be freed but gave no time or place for their release.

Girls To Arrive in 'Few Hours'

NC2612143288 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Text] The Fatah Revolutionary Council led by Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Bann] announced in Beirut this afternon that the two French children Marie-Laure and Virginie will arrive in Paris in the next few hours.

A spokesman for the organization, Walid Khalid, said that both children will arrive by plane, but refused for security reasons to state the place from which they traveled. He asked the father of the two children to be ready to receive them in Paris.

Andre Metral, brother-in-law of the French hostage Jacqueline Valente who is being held by the Fatah Revolutionary Council, expressed his belief before leaving Beirut today that the presence of the family of the hostages in Beirut was used to launch a political and propaganda campaign by the Fatah Revolutionary Council.

Fadlallah Links Hostages' Fate to Other Detainees

NC2312181988 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Dec 88

[Text] REUTERS cites Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, as saying today that the fate of the foreign hostages in Lebanon is linked to that of three Iranians who disappeared in East Beirut as well as that of hundreds of Lebanese and Palestinians detained in the enemy entity in Tel Aviv.

Fadlallah said: We join those who call for the release of foreign hostages provided they also call for the release of all kidnapped Lebanese and Palestinians held in Israeli prisons.

It should be recalled that the three Iranians who disappeared in East Beirut in 1982, though the Christian militia deny holding them, are among 22 foreign lost or kidnapped people in Lebanon, according to REUTERS.

AFP Report

NC2312201888 Paris AFP in English 2008 GMT 23 Dec 88

[Excerpts] Beirut, Dec 23 (AFP)—Hundreds of Christmas cards mailed to Western hostages believed held in Lebanon have recently arrived in West Beirut where several of the hostages were taken, correspondents reported on Friday. [passage omitted]

In a related development, the spiritual leader of the pro-Iranian fundamentalist group Hizballah, Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, on Friday said "the Western hostage file in Lebanon should be shut."

He added that he joined the voices of those who call for their release, provided Iranians who were reportedly abducted by Christians in East Beirut were also released.

Earlier two former U.S. hostages issued a compassionate Christmas appeal for the release of two American hostages held in Lebanon—journalist Terry Anderson and Mr. Sutherland.

Father Lawrence Martin Jenco and David Jacobsen, ex-director of an American hospital here, made their plea from the United States over the Voice of Lebanon radio. [passage omitted]

Israeli Helicopters Overfly Sidon 24 Dec
NC2412150988 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 24 Dec 88

[Text] According to security sources in Sidon, three Israeli military helicopters flew for some time over Sidon and the south at approximately 1545 today.

Abu Nidal Group Claims 'Suicide' Attack in Israel
NC2612172488 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Text] The Fatah Revolutionary Council has stated that it carried out a suicide attack against a military barracks located in a settlement inside occupied Palestine today, Monday.

A statement issued by the council said: A group of fighters from our movement carried out a suicide operation at dawn today, Monday, storming a military barracks located in the Zionist settlement set up on the rubble of the Arab village of Al-Manarah [Ramim]. The statement, which bears today's date, was delivered to a foreign news agency in Beirut.

Syria Said To Order Gunmen To Withdraw From Sidon
NC2312200988 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 23 Dec 88

[Text] Security sources in Sidon have disclosed that the Syrian occupation forces have ordered the Al-Sa'iqah and the Arab Socialist Ba'th party gunmen to withdraw from Sidon and its environs. The gunmen have begun withdrawing from the city and are deploying along the coastal road between Al-Damur and Al-Rumaylah. The sources explained these withdrawals as linked to anticipated military possibilities in Sidon.

Three Wounded in West Beirut Car Explosion
NC2512180088 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 25 Dec 88

[Text] A car bomb exploded at 1750 today. Internal security forces sources said that the booby-trapped car was parked near the fire station in the Abu Shakir area [in West Beirut]. Immediately after the explosion, which wounded three people, the internal security forces sealed off the area.

3 Wounded by Grenade Near Syrian Checkpoint
NC2512192688 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 25 Dec 88

[Text] A hand grenade exploded inside a Mercedes near a Syrian checkpoint in the Abu Shakir area in West Beirut at 1750 tonight wounding three people including 'Isam Farshukh. It also caused proprty damage.

3 Drown as Palestinian Boat Capsizes 26 Dec
NC2612175388 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Text] Three Palestinians were drowned and a fourth surrendered to Syrian forces when their Zodiac-type boat capsized off the Al-Jiyah coast at 1530 today.

The Voice of Lebanon has learned that the boat, which belongs to the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, set off from [word indistinct]. Heavy seas caused the boat to capsize.

According to the reports, the Syrian forces seized the boat and its load of war materiel.

U.S. Trying To 'Justify New Aggression' on Libya

JN2512144688 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1415 GMT 25 Dec 88

[Text] A responsible source has stated the following: Once again, Washington and some capitals allied to it are launching a broad media campaign to mobilize public opinion to justify new aggression against the Libyan Jamahiriyah on the pretext of Libya's possession of a chemical weapons plant.

It is strange and regrettable indeed that the United States is once again justifying an aggression against Libya through such allegations at a time when the international community knows that the United States has the largest chemical weapons stockpile in the world.

Meanwhile, the United States turns a blind eye to Israel, which possesses various weapons of total destruction, including chemical weapons, with direct assistance from Washington itself and from the capitals allied to it.

While expressing its profound concern over and vehement denunciation of this unjustified campaign against the Libyan Jamahiriyah, the Syrian Arab Republic stresses its firm support for this fraternal Arab country and calls on the international community to stand against the policies of threats and aggression and to make room for the policies of detente and accord so they can include all world peoples and states.

Media Decry U.S. 'Threat' Against Libya

AL-BA'TH Editorial Cited

JN2612083288 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-BA'TH talks about the U.S. threat to the Libyan Jamahiriyah within the U.S. mentality's fabrications aimed to intensify tension in the Middle East, and, therefore, to evade the responsibility which the United States is supposed to bear toward international issues.

After indicating that Israel, with U.S. support and backing, possesses nuclear reactors and produces destructive weapons without protest by the United States, AL-BA'TH says: The U.S. protest over the Libyan Jamahiriyah is baseless. U.S. officials know perfectly well that Libya is establishing a pharmaceutical and petrochemical plant.

As for the U.S. allegation about Libyan chemical weapons, AL-BA'TH says: This allegation is part of the imperialist policy aimed at preventing the Arabs from manufacturing petrochemical materials to enhance their economy and communities.

If the United States is really concerned about humanity, it would not have allowed Israel to produce nuclear weapons and to use toxic gases against the children of the Palestinian popular uprising.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: Washington again seeks to create an atmosphere appropriate for the Israeli policy based on aggression, settlement, and expansion, although it knows that only a just and durable peace in the region can halt armament and tendency toward war.

The paper wonders: If Washington really seeks to avert the region the dangers posed to it, why then does it reject international demands, obstruct peace, and support the aggressors?

'Campaign' Against Libya Viewed

JN2712151688 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Dec 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Our Arab masses are following with concern the U.S. campaign against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah—the campaign which is being projected as a prelude for military aggression similar to the brutal air raid launched by the U.S. Air Force against the people and land of the fraternal Jamahiriyah.

We do not like to discuss the claims being voiced by Washington. However, we know for certain that the U.S. pouch always has ready reasons for launching campaigns against this or that Arab country with the aim of exerting pressures and terrorizing.

In light of the hostile precedent against fraternal Libya, we believe that any U.S. escalation or any hostile intentions against this fraternal state will endanger regional security and will also constitute a provocation and aggression against the Arab nation. Such aggression will place before the Arab nation, foremost among which is Syria, its pan-Arab duty to support and back a fraternal state in its defense of pan-Arab dignity.

We in Syria view with concern the signs of the U.S. political and media campaign against fraternal Libya. At the same time, we do not see any plausible justification for this campaign, unless the aggression and the terrorization of peoples and states have their own logic in internatonal relations.

If the United States as a superpower gives itself the right to exert pressures, launch media campaigns, and launch attacks on peoples and states, this behavior conflicts with its role as a superpower, leads to an explosion of the regional security and stability, and also introduces new elements of explosion that serve neither regional nor world peace. Nay, these elements of explosion would lead to dangerous repercussions which certainly will not serve the aggression.

The observer notes with bewilderment and amazement how Washington keeps silent on the crimes of the age being perpetrated against our masses in the occupied homeland and also on the use of the most up-to-date U.S. chemical weapons against these masses and how it agrees to provide the Zionist entity once again with cluster bombs at a time when it spreads allegations against fraternal Libya.

This clearly means that the main objective behind the launching of this campaign is to exert pressure on this Arab state, to attempt to intimidate and terrorize it, and to brandish the threat of or to prepare for launching a new attack on its people and land.

Such behavior by a superpower at this time constitutes a repetition of previous terrorist practices and will not be accepted by the Arab nation's masses, which will find themselves, out of necessity and out of loyalty and commitment, alongside the Jamahiriyah in its confrontation of this campaign and of any forthcoming aggression. This will place the United States in a direct confrontation with the Arab masses, which will neither accept nor succumb to aggression. Nay, they will confront this aggression in spite of the sacrifices entailed.

Commentary Views Relations With Egypt, Iraq

JN2412151688 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Dec

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad's handling of the subjects raised by a delegation of the Arab Bar Association when they met has generated a good deal of interest in Arab and international circles. Various interpretations have been assigned to the president's statements.

Some have suggested that the president has opened the door for reestablishing ties between Syria and Egypt and enhanced the chances of an imminent Arab summit. It is understandable that the president's statement should have aroused such interest, given Syria's regional weight, his concern for pan-Arab rights and dignity, his determined stand regarding the challenges facing the Arab nation, and his devotion to the short- and long-term Arab objectives.

Commitment to pan-Arab issues, adherence to Arab rights and land, and resoluteness against capitulation to the enemy and any inhibitions to the yearnings of future Arab generations for unity, freedom, and progress are key planks of President Hafiz al-Asad's Arab and foreign policies. Characteristically realistic, Syria places first things first on its list of priorities.

Syria has never failed to remove whatever obstacles there have been on the road of the Arab nation's strategic objectives. The totality of the Arab nation's rights, dignity, goals, and future has been the criterion by which Syria has conducted itself: Now it makes enemies, now it makes friends; now it strikes alliances, now it enters wars; now it boycotts, now it looks the other way; now it extends its hand of friendship, now it extends its hand to strike. Syria is now as committed as ever to these goals.

When the Arab skies became overcast and the Zionist enemy and its backers thought that the balance had tipped in Israel's favor, making it possible for the Zionist entity to dictate to the Arabs individually or collectively, Syria raised the slogan of stragetic parity, not just between the Arabs and Israel but between Syria and Israel.

Syria has made many sacrifices so that pan-Arab security is not so threatened as to dash the hopes for steadfastness, liberating the occupied territory, and regaining the usurped rights. Friend and foe alike acknowledge Syria's major pan-Arab role in this regard. Toward that end, Syria has attained levels that will be remembered by future generations.

Although Syria has made substantial progress toward the multifaceted strategic parity, it has never discounted other Arab countries, most of all Egypt, with which it fought the glorious October war of liberation.

Neither has Syria discounted the heroic people of Egypt, who have set an example of scacrifice and raised the banner of pan-Arabism in the face of the Zionist invasion, or, for that matter, Iraq—the strategic depth of the eastern front facing the enemy of the Arab nation. Syria has gone so far as to agree on unity to redress the imbalance between the Arabs and Israel introduced by Al-Sadat.

There is nothing new if Syria now opens the door to look into relations with Egypt and Iraq. Syria has always been responsive to good offices and has maintained an open heart and mind toward the brothers who are interested in defending the rights and dignity of the Arab nation and in regaining the occupied Arab land and rights—the brothers who identify our enemies, the true arena of the battle, and the pan-Arab real interests.

Syria knows that President Husni Mubarak is not to be held responsibile for the actions and policies of Anwar al-Sadat; he is, however, to be held responsible for the present and future.

To quote his excellency the president, mending fences with Egypt carries responsibilites for both Egypt and Syria. For its part, Syria is determined to discharge this responsibility to the full in the spirit of its commitment to the pan-Arab cause.

Al-Asad Reportedly Not Opposed to Egypt's Return

JN2412110588 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 24 Dec 88

[Text] Damascus—Informed and reliable diplomatic sources in the Syrian capital have said Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will attend any Arab summit that is held soon and attended by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. The newspaper AL-ITTIHAD quotes these sources as saying Damascus will not restore its diplomatic relations with Egypt before the summit; however, it will not oppose Egypt's return to the Arab League.

The sources added that the Syrian president will head his country's delegation to any Arab summit and that he will not send anyone to represent him even if Egypt returned to the Arab League due to the crucial decisions which would be made by such a summit, especially in light of the recent political events on all Arab, regional, and international levels.

On the other hand, AL-ITTIHAD reports that His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan will visit Damascus shortly to continue his efforts concerning Egyptian-Syrian reconciliation and to lessen tension in the relations between Syria and Iraq in the current phase.

The paper says the Jordanian king's mediation between Syria and Egypt was about to lead to a meeting in Al-'Aqaba between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Husni Mubarak in his presence. The meeting was to have taken place some time this week. However, it was postponed for several reasons which the informed sources did not want to disclose at this stage.

Further on Al-Asad Remarks

JN2612204488 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 25 Dec 88 pp 1, 15

[Excerpt] Amman, Damascus—Lawyer Husayn Mujalli, doyen of Jordanian lawyers and member of the Arab Lawyers Union [ALU], which met with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus last Wednesday, has stated that the Syrian president responded to the ALU appeal to launch a personal initiative to end the frozen relationship with Iraq and speed up the reconciliation between Damascus and Baghdad.

In a statement to AL-BAYAN, lawyer Mujalli expected President al-Asad to embark soon on a positive step to show Syria's good intentions regarding reconciliation with Iraq.

Concerning the Lebanese crisis, the Syrian president asserted that his country is not considering a military option, although it can do so in 2 hours, and that Syria is working to ripen the crisis through its intrinsic interactions, which have recently approached a comprehensive, just solution based on national and democratic reformation.

Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad also asserted that the normalization of Syrian-Egyptian relations is proceeding forward in steady steps and will be expressed very soon through the resumption of flights between Damascus and Cairo by the Egyptian and Syrian airlines.

President al-Asad told the delegation of the ALU's permanent bureau, which he received for more than 7 hours straight, that he personally harbors respect for President Husni Mubarak and that he has not done any overt or covert harm to Mubarak because he is not responsible for the Camp David accords.

The Syrian president hinted that his country has canceled all its reservations over inviting Egypt to any coming Arab summit conference or over Egypt's resumption of its full membership in the Arab League Council. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Najibullah To Attend Chemical Weapons Meeting

BK2612103888 Hong Kong AFP in English 1026 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Kabul, Dec 26 (AFP)—Afghan President Najibullah is to visit Paris in early January to attend an international conference on chemical weapons, official sources said here Monday.

Mr. Najibullah, who will be in Paris from January 7 to 12, will head his country's delegation to the chemical weapons conference, official sources said.

While in the French capital he will also have talks with U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who took over responsibility for the Afghan question for the United Nations a month ago, and other foreign delegates on the future of Afghanistan.

Few heads of state are attending the chemical weapons conference in Paris and the news that Mr. Najibullah was to attend surprised diplomats here.

But they said that they were expecting new initiatives from Mr. Najibullah at a time when the U.N. and the Soviet Union were seeking to establish a coalition government involving the Afghan mujahidin resistance before the end of a Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan in February. [passage omitted]

Vorontsov To Meet With Zahir Shah in Italy

BK2412113688 Hong Kong AFP in English 1127 GMT 24 Dec 88

[Text] Rome, Dec 24 (AFP)—Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov was to have talks here later Saturday with former Afghan King Zahir Shah, Italian diplomatic sources said.

It is the first time the former king, who has lived here since being ousted in a communist-backed coup in 1973, has agreed to meet with a Soviet official.

The 75-year-old Zahir Shah has always refused to see representatives of the Kabul regime and strongly condemned the 1979 Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

The former king favours the convening of a loya jirgah, a traditional gathering of Afghan leaders, as the first step towards creating an independent, non-aligned Afghanistan.

Mr. Vorontsov, who is also Soviet ambassador in Afghanistan, arrived here Friday. He headed a Soviet delegation which had talks with Afghan mujahidin leaders earlier this month in Al-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia. It was the first meeting between the Kremlin and Afghan rebels.

Afghan President Najibullah on Thursday repeated a demand that the Communist People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) be part of a coalition Afghan government with the rebel opposition.

Afghan resistance leaders have said they would accept "good Muslims" in such a government who would indirectly represent the PDPA, but they have firmly refused to share power with PDPA members.

Mr. Vorontsov, who is scheduled to have further talks with the rebels next month, was also to meet Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti here Saturday.

Italy is said to have played a major role in organizing Saturday's meeting between Mr. Vorontsov and the former Afghan king. The diplomatic sources said Soviet authorities had asked Italian Premier Ciriaco de Mita during his recent trip to Moscow to persuade Zahir Shah to accept the talks.

The king first considered that such a meeting would politically meaningless given the opposition of the mujahidins to his person but the resistance leaders reportedly softened their stance after talks with Mr. Vorontsov in Al-Ta'if and Islamabad, the sources said.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has called for a ceasefire in Afghanistan from January 1, and the Soviet withdrawal is due to be completed by February 15.

Moscow's diplomatic efforts have been aimed at reaching a "face-saving" accord with the mujahidin before pulling out its troops, but the rebels have never been united and Afghan ethnic and religious rivalries are very strong, analysts said.

Kabul on Vorontsov-Zahir Talks

LD2412155788 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 24 Dec 88

[Text] The international news agencies reported that Yuliy Vorontsov, ambassador and extraordinary representative of the USSR in Kabul and first deputy minister of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has met with Muhammad Zahir Shah, former king of Afghanistan in Rome, the capital of Italy.

It is being hoped that both sides will hold talks about forming of coalition government with broad social bases. According to the reports, the Italian authorities had endeavored to organize this meeting.

The former king, who is 74, said in a recent interview that he will spare no effort to end the war in Afghanistan.

Presidency Issues Announcement

LD2512172088 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 25 Dec 88

[Text] Here is an announcement of the Press Office of the Presidency of the Republic of Afghanistan:

As a result of joint cooperation between the responsible authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan and the USSR, Yuliy Vorontsov, first deputy foreign minister of the Soviet Union and USSR ambassador to the Republic of Afghanistan, in continuation of the previous contacts of the authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union with various sides, recently held talks with Muhammad Zahir, former king of Afghanistan, on 24 December in Rome. They discussed in detail methods of settling the situation of Afghanistan.

At this meeting, the firm intention of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union to seek a cessation of military operations, the acceleration of the process of the peaceful political settlement of Afghanistan's situation, and the creation of the necessary preconditions for the formation in Afghanistan of a government with a broad national basis was stressed.

The leaderships of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union believe that Muhammad Zahir, former king of Afghanistan, could play a useful role in the matter of restoring peace to Afghanistan and ensuring the success of the talks and dialogue among Afghans with the participations of all political forces.

At the Rome talks, the former king assessed the steps being undertaken in this direction and expressed a number of his thoughts and concerns on this matter. The former king stressed his commitment and loyality to the idea of ceasing military operations and settling the conflict by the political methods.

The sides agreed to continue contacts on this matter.

Meeting Called 'Useful'

AU2712083988 Rome ANSA in English 0813 GMT 27 Dec 88

[Text] (ANSA) Rome [No dateline as received]—The meeting Saturday in Rome between former Afghan King Zahir Shah and Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov was spoken of as "useful" and "positive" by Afghan sources in the capital.

The talk held by the former monarch and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's special envoy, who is also ambassador to Kabul, was said by these sources to have been "very thorough" and one in which the two sides were able to "explain in depth" their points of view on problems in Afghanistan and the country's future.

In remarks made Monday, these sources said ex-King Zahir and the Soviet envoy "will stay in contact and will meet again if necessary".

The former king, 75, has been living in Rome since 1973 when he was overthrown by a military couop which established the republic.

Zahir was said to be fully aware of his own political responsibilities and, according to the president of the seven Afghan resistance movements, "is accepted by eight [as received]) percent of the Afghan people".

Vorontsov these sources in Rome said, discussed an inter-Afghan conference which would set the country on a new course and prepare for a transition government supported by all the sides in the nation in his meetings with the resistance all [words indistinct] Saudi Arabia held December 3 to 5. This idea was said to have been judged in a positive light by Zahir.

Aides to the former king said the inter-Afghan conference, much of the organization of which would be handled by the United Nations, should be convened in the near future because of the urgent need to put an end to conflict in the country and clear the way for the pullout of Soviet troops by February 15.

The formation of a provisional transition government, Vorontsov said after his meeting with the former king, must coincide with the establishment of a "totally new regime" in Kabul.

The Soviets and the former king have said that this government will have to organize elections, "which will allow the people to express their will freely." At this point, Zahir's aides said, the question of the former king's return to his country would arise. "This is his greatest aspiration but he is solid with the people and resistance and, as a consequence, will condition his return to the achievement of all the necessary conditions, beginning with the will of the people," said these aides.

The idea of an inter-Afghan conference has been endorsed by the Soviets, the former king and by president Haji Muhammad Chamkani but not yet by the resistance leaders. The Soviet envoy said, "we are waiting for their signal and when we receive it, we will meet in Islamabad".

These sources recalled that Zahir has consistently excluded sharing power in Kabul with the regime of the People's Democratic Party but has said he is prepared to play any role for the restoration of "the independent and non-aligned state of Afghanistan".

The unrenouncable conditions for this objective were spelled out as, "national independence, territorial integrity and the right to self-determination" by Gorbachev before the U.N. General Assembly on December 7, appears to bring together the conditions laid down by the

former sovereign and his meeting with Vorontsov was said to confirm this state of affairs. [sentence as received] The Soviet diplomat said the Soviets are prepared to disengage as soon as possible.

The former king's prestige could now become an instrument in Soviet hands for convincing the Afghan opposition to accept negotiations or, in Vorontsov's words, "have then take on responsibility for pursuing the war, for the death of civilians, men, women and children".

Supreme Command Issues Warning to Mas'ud Group
LD2612172988 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Text] An announcement by the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan:

Our compatriots are aware that to end war and ensure peace the Republic of Afghanistan has established a number of contacts with all opposition groups inside and outside of the country since the declaration of the national reconciliation policy. It has also established a series of contacts and talked with a number of the commanders of the armed opposition inside the country. In continuing these contacts, contacts have been established with Ahmad Shah Mas'ud during the last 1 and ½ years both by the Afghan side and the side of the limited Soviet military contingents.

Letters have been sent to him particularly after the signing of the Geneva accords, and these contacts have increased. The basic content of the letters sent to him by the Republic of Afghanistan's responsible authorities was an invitation to hold talks without any precondition to end the war, to stop the shedding of Afghan blood by Afghans, and to ensure peace in the country.

Until now no specific answer has been given by Ahmad Shah Mas'ud to the letters of the responsible authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan, despite the desire of the some of the commanders of this armed group who are weary of the war and who favor talks with the state on ending the war. He has resorted to various pretexts and delaying tactics. His activities and position clearly show that he is not ready to hold talks and wants to continue the war and bloodshed with his destructive activities.

As for the last few months, he has plundered—with the help of his armed groups—the transport vehicles loaded with goods belonging to the state and private sectors. The goods included commercial goods, foodstuffs, fuel, and another primary goods needed by Kabul citizens and people of other provinces, along the Salang highway, the economically vital highway of the country. This plundering occurred despite the will and desire of the peace-loving people of Salang and the surrounding area.

He has caused many difficulties for the citizens of Kabul regarding foodstuff and fuel supplies. Not only has he plundered businessmen's goods and destroyed vehicles belonging to the state and private individuals, but he has also killed a number of drivers and passengers who travel on this highway.

The Supreme Command of the Republic of Afghanistan's Armed Forces once again invites Ahmad Shah Mas'ud to reply specifically to the proposals written in previous letters by the responsible authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan and the USSR military command.

It also strongly warns Ahmad Shah Mas'ud and his armed groups to act responsibily toward the security and peaceful life of the people, to allow the dispatch of businessmen's foodstuffs and goods in order to supply the citizens of Kabul city and other provinces, to avoid plundering public and private properties, and to stop any type of combat operations. This is urged in the people's interest and in consideration of the country's present sensitive condition.

Otherwise, the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan has issued strong instructions to put into practice all necessary measures and steps to foil his destructive activities.

The responsibility regarding these matters will rest only with Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, because the responsible authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan have already put forward all the peaceful measures in this direction.

The peace-loving people of the Salang Valley and other areas along this highway request Ahmad Shah's armed group to stop plundering and destroying the transport vehicles or they athemselves will leave this region to avoid the suffering endured by the operations of the country's armed forces.

Plundering and stealing is contrary to the instructions of holy Koran and the sacred religion of Islam. The inhabitants of these regions should not allow Ahmad Shah Mas'ud to make hostages of their children, women, and men, and to plunder the transport vehicles and goods sent to the people of Salang and Panjsher. The state is completely ready to provide economic assistance to the people in Salang, Panjsher, and areas along other highways in accordance with separate protocols.

Mujahidin Shoot Down Plane in Takhar Province
BK2712113688 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 27 Dec 88

[Text] In Afghanistan, mujahidin are reported to have shot down another fighter aircraft of the Kabul regime in Talukan area in Takhar Province.

Mujahidin conducted various operations near (Talal Zaman), (Nashimun), and Char Deh areas in Laghman Province, killing 30 Kabul regime's troops. They captured seven posts and destroyed two tanks. Seven troops surrendered to the mujahidin. They also carried out successful operations in Balkh, Konduz, Baghlan, Nangarhar, and Qandahar Provinces.

Notes on Pakistani Violations Sent to UN Mission

160th Note Submitted

LD2312173288 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 23 Dec 88

[Text] Memorandum No 160 of the Republic of Afghanistan on nine cases of flagrant violations by Pakistan of the provisions of Article 2, Document 1 of the Geneva accords, was handed in today to the UN Good Offices Mission in Kabul by the coordination office of the Foreign Ministry to the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan

It has been mentioned in the memorandum that in violating the provision and spirit of the Geneva accords, the Pakistani military authorities continue to provide modern weapons and ammunition to Afghan armed opposition to continue the bloodshed and resort to destructive activities in Afghanistan. This continues to fan the flames of war and fratricide in the Republic of Afghanistan.

It has been requested that the delegation assess the violations mentioned in this memorandum based on the Paragraph 7, Document 4 of the Geneva accords and inform the side of the Republic of Afghanistan and the envoy of the UN secretary general of its findings.

161st Notice Submitted

LD2512063288 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0457 GMT 25 Dec 88

[Text] Kabul, Dec. 24, BAKHTAR—161st notice of the Republic of Afghanistan on flagrant violations by Pakistan of the Geneva accords was submitted today to the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP).

The notice underlined that Pakistan by dispatching enormous amounts of modern weapons to the armed opposition has intensified fratricidal war causing the death and injury of thousands of innocent people in Afghanistan.

The notice asked the UNGOMAP to investigate the violations and convey the findings to the Republic of Afghanistan and UN secretary general's representative.

162d Note Handed Over

LD2512171788 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 25 Dec 88

[Text] The coordination office of the Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Republic of Afghanistan with the UNGOMAP reports that the 162d memorandum of the Foreign Affairs Ministry on repeated violations of the Geneva accords by Pakistan was given to the UN Good Office Mission in Kabul.

The memorandum consists of accurate information concerning 26 cases of flagrant violations by Pakistan, particularly about the dispatch of arms and ammunition convoys from that country to the extremist groups inside Afghanistan. It has been requested from the delegation to assess the violations mentioned in the memorandum and inform the Republic of Afghanistan and the envoy of the UN secretary general of its findings.

India

Gandhi Returns From PRC, Talks 'Very Useful'

BK2312155888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Dec 88

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has said the [Sino-Indian] joint working group to settle the border question has been proposed and given a specific mandate after high-level political discussions. Mr Gandhi said the group will work within a timeframe which will, however, be decided after the group meets. India has not suggested any time limit, he added. He was speaking to newsmen at Palam Airport on his arrival from Shanghai this evening.

Mr Gandhi said that the joint working group will be different from the one that was discussed during the official-level talks held earlier. He described the visit as a new beginning in Sino-Indian relations and said the talks were very useful.

Answering a question on Tibet, the prime minister declared that there is no change in the Indian policies enunciated by Jawahar Lal Nehru. The Chinese leaders have appreciated our stand.

Asked whether the Indo-Soviet relations will be affected by his China visit, the prime minister replied: Not at all. These ties are strong and will continue to be further strengthened. He said he was impressed with the Chinese leader Mr Deng Xiaoping's vision of a new world order based on Pancasila and the new global economic order. He said Chinese leaders also feel that those are the areas in which the two countries can cooperate and work together.

In an informal talk with newsmen on board the special Air India jet on his way from Shanghai, Mr Rajiv Gandhi expressed the hope that his talks with the Pakistan prime minister, Benazir Bhutto, in Islamabad later

this month will lead to a new understanding with Pakistan. He said he is looking forward to his meeting with Ms Bhutto and that the two countries can do a lot in the spirit of the Simla Agreement.

When his attention was drawn to Ms Bhutto's statement that Pakistan does not have a nuclear weapons program, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said he has no reason to disbelieve the Pakistani prime minister. However, India has information which indicates that Pakistan had a nuclear weapons program and it was in a fairly advanced stage. He said this is one of the serious issues that he will be discussing with her.

In reply to another question, Mr Gandhi said that he will also discuss with Ms Bhutto Pakistani help to terrorists in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir.

Border Issue Not Resolved

BK2412032588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Dec 88

[Excerpts] The prime minister has made it clear that India has not reached any informal understanding with China on the border issue. Mr Gandhi told newsmen at the Delhi airport on his return from China that the issue is now going before a joint working group, which has been asked to work out a mutually acceptable, fair, and reasonable settlement.

The two governments are asking the joint group to work out its own rules and set its own timeframe, which can be known only after its first few meetings. [passage omitted]

In an informal chat with newsmen aboard the plane on the way back from China, Mr Rajiv Gandhi expressed the hope that his forthcoming talks with the Pakistani prime minister in Islamabad will lead to a new understanding with that country. [passage omitted]

On Sri Lanka, Mr Gandhi said that the successful completion of elections in the Northeastern Province shows that the people are not interested in violence there. India wanted the LTTE to join the political process before the elections and would like them to join the process even now, he said.

Joint Communique Issued

BK2312163888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Dec 88

[Text] The two countries [India and China] have agreed to settle the boundary issue through peaceful and friendly consultations. This was announced in joint communique released in Beijing this afternoon after Mr Rajiv Gandhi left Shanghai for New Delhi.

The communique says leaders of the two countries held earnest and in-depth discussions during the prime minister's visit to China and agreed to develop their relations in other fields. They pledged to work hard to create a favorable climate for a fair and reasonable settlement of the issue, while seeking a mutually acceptable solution.

It was also decided that concrete steps will be taken, such as establishing a joint working group on the boundary question and another on implementing agreements on economic relations, trade, and science and technology. Both sides agreed to restore, improve, and develop good-neighborly and friendly relations on the basis of the five principles of Pancasila, which are also basic guidelines for establishing a new economic and political order. The leaders also had a wide exchange of views on international issues of mutual interest.

Our special correspondent reports from Beijing that during the discussions, China expressed concern over anti-China activities by some Tibetans in India. India reiterated its long-standing policy that Tibet is an autonomous region of China and that anti-China activities by Tibetans are not permitted on the Indian soil.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi has invited the Chinese premier, Li Peng, to visit India. Mr Li Peng has accepted the invitation.

Commentary Sees 'Breakthrough'

BK2412114588 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 24 Dec 88

[Virender Mohan commentary: "Breakthrough in Sino-Indian Relations"]

[Text] A new leaf has turned in India-China relations which have remained strained for more than 3 decades because of the contentious boundary question and lack of high-level contacts between them. The dramatic turn about in their relations has come following the visit of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to Beijing.

Mr Gandhi's decision to take the initiative for his historic journey to China was aimed at restructuring and revitalizing their bilateral relations and create a proper political climate for resolution of the boundary question.

The high point of the 5-day visit, the first by an Indian prime minister in 34 years, was a dramatic display of a will of friendship by both sides to improve their soured relations by leaving the past behind. While the two sides decided to set up a joint working group to resolve the boundary question left over from history, it is equally important that they also resolved to keep peace and tranquillity on their border areas.

Bickerings and tensions in the northeastern border, which had characterized the relations between India and China in the past, have now ended with the era of confrontation. It is quite significant that the two sides,

recognizing that the border question would require some time to be solved, agreed to institutionalize their economic and technical cooperation by setting up a joint committee.

The warmth, the openness, and the cordiality that marked Mr Gandhi's visit clearly indicated the desire of the Chinese authorities to rebuild their relationship with India.

On the day the prime minister ended his wide-ranging talks, which also covered a review of major regional and international issues, in a very unusual gesture a Chinese Foreign Office spokesman went on the television and declared that Mr Gandhi's visit marks a new stage in the India-China relations.

The Chinese spokesman went on to say that the visit would give an impetus to the further development of these relations. The Chinese authorities stated that the joint working group on the boundary question was formed after earnest and in-depth talks with Mr Gandhi. It is quite obvious that the group formed after a political level dialogue would have the requisite mandate to solve this issue, which Mr Gandhi said would be mutually acceptable and be on a fair and reasonable basis.

The commitment of the two countries to work hard to create a favorable climate and condition for a settlement of the boundary question should obviously mean a respite from such a situation which was caused by Chinese incursions last year into the Sumdorong Chu Valley and the suspension of Chinese assistance to rebel and secessionist groups that have been active in India's northeast.

The signing of the three agreements on science and technology, air services, and an executive program for cultural cooperation would undoubtedly help improve the atmosphere further.

The joint communique issued at the end of Mr Gandhi's visit reflected that the two countries had decided to look to the future and even strive to cooperate in the international arena since their views on global economic and political issues have reflected a great parallelism.

Far more significant than the joint communique and the three accords is the warm welcome that was accorded to Mr Gandhi and the personal rapport he struck with new pragmatic reform-oriented generation of Chinese leaders.

This and the candid dialogue the Indian team had with the Chinese, as well as their renewed commitment to the five principles of peaceful coexistence that were jointly enunciated by them in the 50's, hold out the hope that although we may not get back to the euphoria of Hindi-Chini Bhai Bhai [India and China are brothers] days, it may be legitimate to expect closer Sino-Indian cooperation at the international level for new political and economic orders.

These have become distinct possibilities in the present era when confrontation was giving way to dialogue and tension to relaxation.

From all accounts, the visit has been a great success and the two sides would have more frequent exchanges at various levels. By the time Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng comes to India at the invitation of the Indian prime minister, the two sides would have done considerable work to put their relations on a more solid footing.

CSSR Embassy Fears Missing Diplomat 'Kidnapped'
BK2512062488 Hong Kong AFP in English 0617 GMT 25 Dec 88

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 25 (AFP)—The Czechoslovak Embassy here fears that a diplomat who disappeared more than a week ago has been kidnapped, an embassy spokesman said Sunday.

First Secretary Vlastimil Ludvik, 46, has been missing since he left the Czechoslovak Embassy here alone on the evening of December 15 to keep an appointment with a friend, raising speculation that he may have defected.

But the mission strongly believes he has been kidnapped, an embassy spokesman said.

"Our opinion is he has been kidnapped by a third country, this is the strongest possibility," the spokesman said. "Or he may have been a victim of a violent act."

He did not mention suspects and added that a violent act could be "anything—even murder."

A Western intelligence agency tried to recruit Mr. Ludvik when he was posted in Britain a few years ago, but the diplomat had rejected the attempt and informed his superiors, the spokesman said.

"Mr. Ludvik had been a long-time diplomat with a good career. His performance had always been appreciated," he said.

Before he disappeared Mr. Ludvik had trained for the embassy's tennis tournament and had been planning a Christmas vacation with his family in the western Indian beach resort of Goa, the spokesman said.

He did not have travel documents allowing him to leave India legally. His diplomatic passport is with the embassy, while his driving license and identity card were found in his car, which was discovered by police outside a luxury hotel in south Delhi Monday.

"All the circumstances point to kidnapping," the embassy spokesman said.

The spokesman said Mr. Ludvik's wife had left with their 15-year-old daughter for Prague on Wednesday to join her 21-year-old son.

He said Mrs. Ludvik did not think her husband had defected. "She is convinced her husband became a victim of a violent act," he added.

Mr. Ludvik, whose age had earlier been given by police as 38, has not been seen or heard from since he left the embassy at 6 p.m. on December 15 saying he had a dinner date with a friend. The Czechoslovak Embassy reported him to police as a missing person the next day.

Indian newspapers have drawn parallels between Mr. Ludvik's disappearance and the defection of two Soviet officials in India in recent years.

Indian officials said they were pursuing all possibilities, including defection, but refused to elaborate beyond saying that no clues had so far surfaced in the investigations.

Reportage on Violence in Andhra Pradesh

Bomb Kills Legislator

BK2612032888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, the Congress-I MLA [member of legislative assembly] from Vijayawada, Mr V. Mohana Ranga Rao, has died in a bomb attack. The incident occurred early this morning when some unknown assailants hurled bombs at a camp where Mr Ranga Rao was on hunger strike for the last 4 days. He was demanding protection for himself and protesting against alleged police harassment. Mr Ranga Rao was elected to the state assembly in 1985.

The district authorities have imposed curfew in the city.

'Shoot-at-Sight' Orders Issued

BK2612064488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Shoot-at-sight orders have been issued in Vijayawada town of Andhra Pradesh as hooligans went on a rampage burning cinema halls, shops, and some newspaper offices, and looting business establishments. Curfew has already been imposed in the town, following the murder of a Congress-I MLA, Mr V. Mohana Ranga Rao, in the early hours of today by some unknown miscreants.

The situation in the town is tense, but under control. According to police, Mr Ranga Rao and two others died when bombs were hurled at them. Eight persons were injured. [passage omitted]

6 Killed by Police

BK2612125688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, six persons died as police fired at different places in Vijayawada today to control an unruly mob indulging in large-scale looting and arson of public and private property.

Our Vijayawada correspondent after going round the city reports that a number of road transport buses and houses were set on fire. The rampage began soon after the Congress-I MLA, Mr V. Mohana Ranga Rao, was killed this morning when some unknown people hurled bombs at him. He had been on a hunger strike for the last 4 days demanding protection from the police and an end to police harassment.

In some towns at Guntur, Krishna and Khammam District a bundh [strike] was observed in protest against the killing of Mr Rao. Shoot-at-sight orders were issued earlier to curb violence.

Seven companies of Central Security Personnel are being air lifted from Delhi to deal with the situation in the towns. This follows a request from the state government. Several political parties have unequivocally condemned the killing of Mr Mohana Ranga Rao.

Army Sent to Vijayawada

BK2612160888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, the Army is being sent to Vijayawada, which witnessed a large-scale violence today. Seven persons were killed and several injured when police opened fire at a violent mob in Vijayawada and Tenali. The unruly mob resorted to largescale arson and looting following the murder of a Congress-I MLA, Mr V. Mohana Ranga Rao, in Vijayawada this morning.

A bundh [strike] was observed in several towns of the state in protest against the murder of the MLA. Curfew has been imposed in Vijayawada and eight towns of Guntur District as a precautionary measure. Train and bus services were also disrupted.

Addressing a news conference in Hyderabad this evening, the chief minister, Mr N.T. Rama Rao, said the situation is tense but under control. Mr Rama Rao said he held discussions with his cabinet colleagues and the leaders of various political parties about the law and order situation in the state.

The Union Home Ministry reviewed the situation at a high level meeting in New Delhi. The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, presided. Later, an official spokesman said seven companies of para-military forces are being air lifted at the request of the state government. More forces are expected to be sent.

The Karnataka and Orissa governments are also providing six companies of armed police for deployment in the affected areas.

The union minister, Mr Shiv Shankar, and the PCC [Pradesh Congress Committee] president, Mr N. Janardan Reddy, criticized the state government for its failure to provide protection to the legislators. Several political parties have condemned the dastardly act.

Death Total Reaches 17

BK2712053088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 27 Dec 88

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, the curfew has been extended in Vijaywada for another 48 hours following yesterday's violent incidents. Seventeen persons were killed and over a hundred injured as police opened fire on violent mobs at several places in the state.

Ten people died in Vijaywada and seven in Machilipatnam, Guntur, Narasaraopet, Tenali, (Kolipada), and other places.

The unruly mob resorted to a large-scale arson and looting following the murder of a Congress-I MLA, Mr Mohana Ranga Rao, yesterday morning. Paramilitary forces and special armed police were flown in from neighboring states to bring the situation under control.

The chief minister, Mr Rama Rao, called a meeting of all political parties and consulted his cabinet colleagues yesterday evening about the situation. The Union Home Ministry also reviewed the situation at a high level meeting in New Delhi yesterday.

Iran

Reagan Directing 'Propaganda' of Pan Am Crash

LD2512190188 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 25 Dec 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] In the wake of the U.S. airliner crash an expert on air accidents in the British Ministry of Transport said: Thus far, we have not come across any evidence to indicate sabotage of the plane. Although nothing is found to indicate that sabotage is the cause, some news agencies, mainly U.S. news agencies, have tried to accuse certain groups in their reporting of this incident.

It seems that by branding some groups as terrorist elements, an attempt is being made to discredit them and to prepare the grounds for subsequent actions. Such accusations, while used to turn public opinion against these groups, create a favorable climate for the political and even military moves of imperialism.

Some time ago, as a result of a bomb explosion in the U.S. officers' mess hall in West Germany, a number of soldiers were killed or wounded. The United States, without having clear proof, decided to settle some political accounts, accused Libya as behind the explosion, and attacked that country. It must be noted that the two prime suspects in this case were recently exonerated in West Germany for lack of evidence.

In connection with the plane crash, thus far the Libyan Government, the Palestinian group of Abu Nidal, and another group named the Guardians of the Islamic Revolution have been mentioned. The United States and the Zionist regime, by insinuating sabotage, intend to achieve their objectives by resorting to state terrorism.

Recently Reagan, in connection with the United States' claim that Libya has built a chemical weapons manufacturing complex, has sought an excuse to attack this country and has directed the United States propaganda system to prepare the grounds for this purpose. Although Libya has repeatedly denied that it is manufacturing chemical weapons, this has not stopped U.S. propaganda.

Condemnation of Libya is taking place at a time when the United States has refrained from responding to Iraq's extensive deployment of chemical weapons during the long years of its war against the Islamic Republic of Iran; and Reagan, despite Iraqi officials' confessions, has never planned to attack the Iraqi chemical weapons complex.

It appears that the Pan Am air crash incident is being exploited to prepare the grounds for another move within the framework of state terrorism, which has been organized by the United States and Israel in recent years.

To hide the true reasons for the plane crash, in addition to distracting public opinion from the truth, it will be used as a cover up for the possible negligence in servicing and maintenance of the plane. It would also save Pan Am credibility, which once upon a time was one of the most important airlines.

UN Envoy Denies Involvement in Pan Am Crash

LD2312175488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Dec 88

[Text] Our next report, which you will now hear, concerns the comments made by Mahallati, Iran's permanent envoy to the United Nations, about the Pan Am jumbo jet crash and also the insistence of the investigation team on the lack of any evidence indicating sabotage:

[Unidentified correspondent] The team investigating the cause of the Pan Am airliner crash announced tonight that search and investigation to find the various pieces of the wrecked plane have so far revealed no evidence of sabotage or a bomb explosion on board the plane.

Although the main cause of the crash has not yet been determined and British and United States authorities believe that it is too early to draw any conclusions, it seems that the crash, in which at least 275 people were killed, was caused by the flight deck coming apart from the rest of the fuselage.

The flight deck and area where it separated from the fuselage is where investigations into the cause of the crash should start. However, there have been no findings in that respect as yet.

In the meantime, following the United States airliner's crash in Scotland, the Iranian envoy to the United Nations announced in a number of television interviews that, while expressing condolences to the families of the victims, the Islamic Republic of Iran strongly denies any involvement in the incident.

Speaking on the United States television networks, Mohammad Javad Mahallati said: If the investigations prove that the crash was the result of sabotage, the Islamic Republic of Iran will condemn it, as it condemned the attack on the Iranian passenger airliner, and will call for the punishment of the perpetrators. He added: It is Iran's firm policy to condemn strongly any attack on innocent civilians.

He accused minigroups opposing the Islamic Republic of Iran, groups protected by the Iraqi regime, of spreading rumors attributing this crash to the Islamic Republic. He added: In such cases, the actual act of sabotage is as wicked as attributing it to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In any case, the fact that no evidence of sabotage has yet been found shows that the crash was probably caused by technical failure. As stated in previous reports, Boeing-747's have many faults, particularly in the flight deck and the area where it is joined to the fuselage, which have caused crashes in the past.

Editorial Says U.S. 'Exploiting' Airplane Crash

LD2412185688 Tehran IRNA in English 1829 GMT 24 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 26, IRNA—The Persian daily 'ABRAR said in an editorial Saturday that the U.S. is exploiting an anonomyous phone call in relation with the crash of a Pan Am airliner on Lockerbie, Scotland Thursday as a device for neutralizing some of the international criticism against it for its downing of an Iran Air Airbus on the Strait of Hormuz on July 3.

It said suggestions of the involvement of Iran's "Pasdaran" (Islamic Revolution's Guards) in the crash, as well as earlier allegations about the poor status of human rights in Iran is a propaganda device by the United States against Iran at a time the Islamic government is winning itself good reputation at the international scene.

The following is the text of the commentary.

"No responsible official has yet established with any certainty the reason for the crash of a Pan Am airliner over the city of Lockerbie in southern Scotland on her way from London to New York earlier this week, though sporadic news reports have attributed the crash to technical failure, defect in the plane's fuselage, bad weather conditions, and lastly for a conjectured presence of a time-bomb in the cabin of the airliner, the one alternative which is treated with special prominence in the world news on the strength of an anonymous telephone call that the crash had happened as a result of a time-bomb planted in the aircraft by Iran's Islamic Revolution's Guards.

"But why is is that among the many suggestions one and only [one] is given special prominence? What is the reason for this wave of news throughout the world against the Islamic Republic? Why do they try to exploit this catastrophic incident as a means of waging a smear campaign against the Islamic Republic? Below we will try to explain.

"The inconsistency with Islam of the act of killing innocent people being obvious to all, it is also equally obvious that no one person in the world, be he an Iranian or simply a Muslim, would allow himself to risk the lives of innocent people. This is a point beyond dispute by the Iranian nation. But let us see why they (the foreign powers and their news media) still persistingly incriminate Iran in some way or other for the incident and why they want to smear Iran with imputations with high emotional charges.

"To begin with the world arrogance was put to much shame as a result of the universal propaganda against the criminal U.S. for its hitting of an Iran Air Airbus (on July 3), and therefore it decided to exploit upon Pan Am's crash over Lockerbie for warding off some of the imputations against it and somehow partially counteract the impacts of universal criticism against it....

"A second purpose is to exert psychological pressures on Iran as a supplementary to its current plots against Iran, and a prelude to its future conspiracies.

"Within this same context is the current smear campaign against the Islamic government for an allegedly poor status of the human rights in Iran. This time the allegations against Iran led to a response earlier this week by the Iranian Foreign Ministry which said counter-revolutionary elements in the various parts of the world are on the look-out to attribute every terrorist operation in any part of the world to the Islamic government. They are malcontent mercenary quasi-groups which feed on the dirty tree of world arrogance to pave the way for the superpower plots in Iran at an opportune moment.

"For their subsistence at times the malcontent groups get together in neighboring countries, and at other times they prostitute themselves against the Islamic state in the

countries which conspire against the Islamic statehood. Naturally we must behave wisely and be ready to cope with novel plots behind malicious propaganda.

"Current developments including Iran's uncomprising stand towards the Ba'thist enemy (Iraqi Government) both at war and at peace talks, the rise in oil prices, the regime occupying Al-Quds becoming now vulnerable and with respect to its recent efforts for invading southern Lebanon, and continued resistance struggle by the Palestinians and the support to them by Iran's Muslim people, as well as the creation of a proper diplomatic atmosphere between Iran and the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council attest to the emerging of Iran as a powerful country in the region which the world arrogance tries to challenge by exploiting every opportunity.

"The United States and its criminal mercenaries unlikely to desist in their Satanic plots against the Islamic Republic, it remains the duty of the Foreign Ministry and the nation to nullify the schemes of the enemies of Islam and the revolution as they have done before. [no end quotation marks as received]

British National Released From Prison 26 Dec
LD2712091588 Tehran IRNA in English 0530 GMT 27 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 27, IRNA—"An imprisoned Briton was released here yesterday and handed over to the British Embassy in Tehran," said the English daily TEHRAN TIMES in its Tuesday issue quoting informed sources.

It further quoted the sources as saying that Nicholas Nicola's sentence was reduced. "He was freed because of good behaviour in the prison."

The British national was arrested on December 1986 by Gendarmerie border officers in Mir-Javeh, southwestern border with Pakistan. Nicola was charged with illegal entry into Iran and possession of two weapons and a number of cartridges. Nicola received a three and half years prison term.

The paper quoted the sources as saying that the British Embassy is making arrangements to sent Nicola back to Britain adding that he might fly to London today.

The British Charge d'Affaires to Tehran Gordon Pirie contacted by TEHRAN TIMES said "release of Nicola is an important step in improving relations between Tehran and London."

Official Denies 'Torture' of French Woman
LD2612190888 Tehran IRNA in English 1801 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 26, IRNA—Foreign Ministry Director-General for European Affairs Mahmud Va'ezi today strongly protested to the French media's allegations that a certain French woman was tortured in Iran.

Calling French Ambassador Christian Graeff to the Foreign Ministry, Va'ezi said the supposed French woman's particulars have not been found at any of Iran's land, air, and sea entry points nor any of the Iranian representative offices abroad have issued a visa for a woman fitting the description.

French media last week quoting sources close the outlawed Monafeqin (hypocrites) Khalq [Mojahedin-e Khalq] grouplet (MKO) said a French nurse named Annie Azure was captured during Mersad operations in Bakhtaran, western Iran late last July.

Monafeqin sources say that a certain Ms Azure formed part of the Iraqi-backed outlaw's invasion force, and that she was wounded and captured by the Iranian combatants in the ensuing battles.

If the supposed woman did ever accompany terrorists into Iran "she might have probably been killed in the operations along with other mercenaries or perhaps escaped back to Iraq," Va'ezi told Graeff.

"If France and its public opinion really attached any value to the life of their citizens they would never allow thenmselves to get involved in an aggression against the territorial integrity of the Islamic Republic," he added.

Observers believe that reports alleging the French nurse's capture more than four months after the Mersad operations is in line with the poisonous propaganda of late against Iran which aims at damaging the Islamic Republic's relations with the European countries.

Over 1,000 tanks, personnel carriers and military vehicles of the joint Iraqi Ba'thist-MKO troops were destroyed and thousands of them were killed and wounded by Iran's Muslim combatants during Mersad (ambuscade) operations which routed the ill-fated enemy's invasion of western Iran.

In an interview published in TEHRAN TIMES yesterday, Foreign Ministry deputy for Euro-American affairs flatly rejected the French accusations, and brushed it off as "the French Government's baby."

Mohammad Javad Larijani retorted that if the French nurse had really entered Iran illegally with the anti-revolutionaries, then probably she was killed in the operations, and Iran has nothing more to say.

Majlis Speaker Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons
LD2312223488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1526 GMT 23 Dec 88

[Second Friday prayers sermon by Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Tehran University on 22 December—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I have many issues to discuss in my second sermon, some of which I shall cover only very briefly.

Next Sunday is the anniversary of the birth of His Holiness Jesus Christ, the great prophet of God, and the divine miracle of creation. On this blessed day I greet all the believers throughout the world, and especially all Christian brothers and sisters.

I hope that the Christians, who constitute a great section of the world's population, will follow the guidelines of this eminent messenger of God, and miracle of history. [passage omitted]

Another issue concerns Afghanistan. This week is also the anniversary of the occupation of Afghanistan, which—praise be to God—is on the verge of defeat; that is, the defeat of the usurper occupiers, due to the Afghan people's relentless struggle. We should indeed thank those people in Afghanistan who, following the occupation of their country and the shameful coup d'etat—the purpose of which was to force Marxism on the Muslim people of Afghanistan, after which they invited strangers to the country to defeat the people with military power—fought and justly took part in an unarmed jihad, becoming martyrs.

They have been fighting for nearly 9 years in this way. These people should be thanked and ranked among the saviours of Islam, these people who are followers of the Sunni sect and the fountain of wisdom. They have resisted one of the most powerful armies in the world by relentless struggle and under the most difficult conditions.

Today we are witnessing the fruition of their sacrifices, which is like a clear horizon. However, there is one piece of advice which we should give to our mujahid brothers, and that is to preserve the cohesion, solidarity, and unity of their race in the face of the trickeries of the enemies of Islam. They should be careful not to allow the despotic enemies to exert authority over them, to insinuate themselves, to impose a futile future on them.

In all this, I feel that the Americans are trying somehow to exert influence and take the place of the other superpower. Recently, when the Soviet Government stated its readiness to negotiate with the Eight-Party Alliance of Mujahidin who are currently based in Iran, from where they conduct their battle, the U.S. ambassador to Pakistan made a speech criticizing the Soviet Union, asking why it is that the Soviets are willing to negotiate with a group based in Iran.

This statement has several connotations; it reveals many things. Are these people not Afghans? Are the 2 to 3 million homeless people who are residing in Iran not Afghans? Are the leaders of the eight-party group who have shed so much blood and lost so much of their wealth and belongings in order to save Afghanistan not Afghans?

Then how is it that the Americans are against negotiations in respect to resolving the Afghan issues? Why are they against negotiations with the groups that have fought from a base in Iran to save their country, those who have chosen martyrdom? How can it be possible to hold talks with one group, and ignore the other?

This is what the United States has in mind. This is the first match they are striking to kindle discord, to create discord between the Shi'ites and the Sunnis. Of course, we consider both factions to be Muslims, whether they follow the Sunni cause or those that of the Shi'ites. We have always supported the Sunnis and cooperated with them, and we ask them to preserve their solidarity and not allow the Americans to foment a Sunni-Shi'ite war, or to create discord between different groups because they are in Iran or Pakistan.

This could be the prime future problem for Afghanistan, and it is clear that they are showing their mischievous intent. However, our Shi'ite and Sunni brothers are vigilant and will not allow this to happen. [chants of "God is great"]

Another issue is that of Palestine. This week is also the anniversary of the Palestinian uprising. I shall deliver a speech in Arabic concerning the new situation which has arisen following the acceptance of the existence of Israel. I will not take your time by speaking about this in Persian. [passage omitted]

Before commencing my Arabic sermon, I invite you brothers and sisters to perform your religious rites. The foreign minister of our friendly and Muslim neighbor country of Bangladesh, who is a guest of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and his accompanying delegation, are also present at the Friday prayers sermon ceremony, and we welcome these gentlemen.

Musavi Interviewed on Antinarcotics Effort

LD2312185588 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 23 Dec 88

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Musavi, who also heads the antinarcotics headquarters, announced in an interview with our correspondent the programs of that headquarters to fight addiction.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] What has the antinarcotics headquarters done since its inception? And what course of action has the headquarters adopted in connection with addiction?

[Musavi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The headquarters has held regular meetings. Certain projects are being implemented. As I have said before, the new law will be enforced as of 21 January. However, this does not mean that we are not taking any action before the law becomes effective. I think that the effects of our efforts will be revealed soon. [passage omitted]

I think that the high morale in the headquarters and its programs, the results of which we will gradually see, will help solve this problem in our holy system, God willing.

[Correspondent] Will the headquarters be lenient in punishing pushers or addicts who come forward?

[Musavi] Definitely. Until the new law comes into force, if people come forward and surrend any narcotics they have, we will be very lenient with them. This matter was discussed at a recent session of the antinarcotics headquarters. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Thank you very much. [end recording]

Narcotics 'Smuggling Convoy' 'Wiped Out' in Kerman
LD2412173688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Dec 88

[Text] A big narcotics smuggling convoy guarded by armed smugglers and insurgents was spotted by a crack battalion of the Kerman Islamic Revolution Guards, surrounded on the heights in the north of Rayen and (Jubkhar) District in Kerman, and totally wiped out.

More than 250 kg of opium was seized during the operation. This was the second big international narcotics smuggling convoy wiped out by the Kerman IRGC and committee guards within a week.

Drug Smugglers, IRGC Clash in Kerman Province
LD2712084088 Tehran IRNA in English 0834 GMT 27 Dec 88

[Text] Kerman, Dec. 27, IRNA—27 armed narcotic smugglers were killed or wounded in a 24-hour clash with the strike force of Kerman's Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) on Nask and Harmak Heights, near Kerman on Sunday.

The smugglers were hidden in the area following a recent joint IRGC and Havaniruz forces (Iranian Army Aviations Service) operation in Nask and Harmak villages. The villages were cleared of the drug traffickers with several of them being arrested.

Large amount of munitions and seven motorcycles were seized in the operation and five other motorcycles and large quantities of munitions and other equipment were set afire. Mopping up operations continues in the region.

Official Assures Libya of Support Against U.S.
LD2512105388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Dec 88

[Text] Mr Sheykh ol-Eslam, the Foreign Ministry under secretary, during a meeting with the Libyan envoy in Tehran this morning, stated Iran's official position regarding U.S. threats and propaganda attacks against Libya.

According to a Central News Unit report, referring to the propaganda pressure by the United States and the Zionists on Libya, Mr Sheykh ol-Eslam said: With their false propaganda the United States paves the way to commit state terrorism against progressive and revolutionary countries.

The 1986 U.S. military attack on Libya and the shooting down of the Iranian passenger airliner by the U.S. fleet in the Persian Gulf are among terrorist acts committed by the U.S. Government.

He added: The U.S. aim in this hue and cry is to tarnish the revolutionary reputation of Libya and its leadership and justify her repeated acts of aggression against that country.

Emphasizing the fact that Iran stands alongside Libya in the face of any U.S. military attack, he said: We will do whatever we can in support of Libya.

Velayati Appoints New Afghan Affairs Adviser
LD2412092988 Tehran IRNA in English 0858 GMT 24 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 24, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati appointed Humayun Amir Khalili [name as received] as his special advisor in charge of Afghanistan issue, this was announced here today.

Mujahidin Leaders, Delegation Arrive for Talks

Group Meets Khamene'i
LD2412172988 Tehran IRNA in English 1658 GMT 24 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 24 IRNA—The leader of the largest Afghan resistance alliance based in Pakistan Burhanuddin Rabbani arrived in Tehran Saturday for talks with Mojahedin groups in Iran.

"We give special importance to negotiations with Iranian officials and Afghan brothers based in Iran and we hope that talks would bear good results," Rabbani told reporters at Mehrabad Airport.

Rabbani was received by Muhammad Karim Khalili spokesman of the eight-party Afghan coalition based in Iran as well as a number of Foreign Ministry officials and the Pakistani ambassador to Tehran. He later met Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Afghan resistance sources in Peshawar, Pakistan, told IRNA in Islamabad that Rabbani would try to convince the Iran-based coalition to join future talks with the Soviets.

Pakistan-based Afghan Mojahedin representatives met Soviet officials for the first time in Al-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia, earlier on 3 and 4 December.

Afghan Mojahedin in Iran said earlier this month that Moscow had offered to talk on the future of Afghanistan. The offer is under consideration, the Mojahedin here said.

"We are seeking the views of other combatant (Afghan) groups and in any case the start of talks (with the Soviets) was a preliminary start and we hope to achieve greater progress in the future," Rabbani said.

On Friday Hojjat ol-Eslam Qorban-'Ali Irfani member of the Central Council of the Nasr organization of Afghanistan also flew in from Pakistan to take part in the talks with Rabbani and oversee efforts to bring all Afghan Shi'a groups together in a single organization.

Meanwhile, the eight-party coalition in Iran met with President 'Ali Khamene'i Saturday during which the activities of the Shi'a groups inside Afghanistan were discussed.

Khamene'i stressed on the need for greater solidarity among all Afghans to "reach final victory." "You have reached a point where you will soon taste the sweet fruit of struggle, resistance and patience," he added.

The start of talks between the Mojahedin and the Soviets proved that Moscow could not ignore the people of Afghanistan, the president said.

In his Friday prayer sermon, Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani condemned attempts by the U.S. to divide the Mojahedin and expressed Iran's support for both Sunni and Shi'a groups whom he said must work together.

Rabbani Briefs Velayati

LD2512150888 Tehran IRNA in English 1435 GMT 25 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 25, IRNA—Afghan Muslims can help materialize their ideals only through unity and further coordination among all mujahidin groups, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati told leader of the Seven-Party Afghan Alliance Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani today.

Rabbani briefed Velayati on recent talks between the Pakistan-based 7-Party Alliance and Soviet Ambassador to Kabul Yuliy Vorontsov in the Saudi resort of Al-Ta'if, and on the latest developments inside Afghanistan.

Rabbani who arrived here yesterday also met with leaders of the Iran-based coalition of eight Afghan groups fighting Soviet troops and the Moscow-backed Kabul regime, here today.

Although details of talks between the two Afghan coalitions were not made public, it is said the negotiations centered on last month's talks between the Soviet Union and the Seven Party Alliance in Al-Ta'if.

Moscow has also offered to hold direct talks with the Iran-based mujahidin, and according to spokesman Muhammad Karim Khalili, the 8-party coalition is studying the Soviet proposal.

Khamene'i Receives Rabbani

LD2512222088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 25 Dec 88

[Text] President Khamene'i received Mr Burhanuddin Rabbani, the leader of the Afghan mujahidin Seven-Party Alliance based in Pakistan, on Sunday evening. In the course of this meeting, which was also attended by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Besharati, Mr Rabbani briefed our country's president on the outcome of the talks between the Seven-Party Islamic Alliance and the Soviet representatives and the latest political-military developments of Afghanistan.

Referring to the courageous resistance of the Afghan mujahidin against forces of the Eastern superpower, Mr Khamene'i reiterated that the overall support of Iran for the justice-seeking resistance of the Muslim people and mujahidin of Afghanistan will continue.

The president also cautioned the mujahidin about U.S. interference in Afghanistan affairs and added: The United States and other Western powers intend to create discord and division among various strata of the Afghan mujahidin.

Mr Khamene'i continued: The Afghan people and mujahidin must be vigilant, for only they have the right to determine their own fate. God willing, by following Islam fully, they will establish a 100-percent Islamic system in that country.

Mansur Arrives for Talks

LD2612071188 Tehran IRNA in English 0702 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 26, IRNA—Head of the Islamic Revolution Movement of Afghanistan, Mawlawi Nasrullah Mansur arrived in Tehran late Sunday [25 December]. The Afghan leader is here to take part in negotiations of the leaders of the Seven-Party Alliance of Afghan mujahidin.

Rabbani Lauds Red Crescent Aid

LD2612105488 Tehran IRNA in English 1042 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec, 27, IRNA—Leader of the Afghan muhjahidin coalition in Pakistan Burhanuddin Rabbani who is currently in Tehran, in a meeting here Monday morning with head of Iran's Red Crescent Society, Dr. Vahid Dastjerdi praised the society's relief assistances to Afghan refugees and mujahidin.

Rabbani also briefed Dr. Dastjerdi on social, economic and cultural situation of Afghan Muslims in liberated areas of Afghanistan.

Dr. Dastjerdi told the Afghan mujahidin leader that the society was ready to provide further assistance to the Afghan refugees.

Rabbani, Majlis Speaker Confer

LD2612174288 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Text] Mr Burhanuddin Rabbani was received by the Islamic Majlis speaker Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning. In the course of this meeting, the spokesman for the Alliance of Seven briefed the Majlis speaker on the efforts of this country's Muslim people during the struggle and in support of the outcome of the talks.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed that the people of Afghanistan are the best candidates to take charge of this country's government in the future. He said: The future is more important than the past. In our experience of revolution, the wrath of the 1st year managed to topple the shah's regime. However, the subsequent programs, which were planned for us by the shah's supporters have kept us busy ever since, and we have given more martyrs after the revolution began than the period before [during the shah's rule].

The acting Armed Forces commander in chief later referred to the fact that the people of Afghanistan have suffered a great deal. He said: This is a sensitive moment. As a whole you have reached a good point, and now you must strengthen your unity and vigilance. Your Islamic morale has greatly helped you, and what is important now is that you should manage the future very prudently.

Musavi Receives Delegation

LD2612174388 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Text] Prime Minister Musavi received the spokesman and representatives of the Afghan mujahidin's Alliance of Seven this evening.

During this meeting, Mr Burhanuddin Rabbani presented a report to Mr Musavi on recent developments of Afghanistan. He also thanked Iran for its all-embracing support of the Afghan mujahidin in the course of the struggle and asked for continued support in the future.

Prime Minister Mr Musavi expressed his delight for the approaching dawn of the Afghan mujahidin and said: Steadfastness of the Muslim people of Afghanistan and all the struggling forces made their enemy concede defeat. This struggle must continue until an Islamic government is established in this country.

The prime minister cautioned the delegation about any conspiracy on the part of the Eastern and Western powers to create discord in the ranks of the Afghan combatants and stressed the need for unity and solidarity of the fighting Afghan forces until final victory.

Conditions Set for Establishing New Parties

LD2512174488 Tehran IRNA in English 1713 GMT 25 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 24, IRNA—New political parties must pledge allegiance to the Constitution and refrain from acts that would divide the society and that ran contrary to Iran's independence.

Interior Ministry's Political Director 'Abdol Hamid Emami said these were some of the rules concerning political parties which will start seeking permits for official activity as of 31 December.

"The law on political parties or groups has not set any limits on the people (wishing to form a party)," he said in an interview.

"But" he added "all members of the defunct SAVAK (former secret service), Freemasons, those who became ministers between 19 August 1953 and 11 February 1979, members of the Senate or the National Assembly (before the revolution), managers of the former regime and the (shah's) Rastakhiz Party, those who have lost or will lose their social rights according to court rulings based on Islamic codes, do not have the right to establish a political group or party or become members of it."

"Otherwise all individuals in the country can apply to form a party or a political group."

Last week Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi announced that the law on political activity, ratified by the Majlis in 1981, would be implemented now that the war with Iraq had stopped and relative tranquility had returned to the country. The decision was widely welcomed by political personalities and the press. A conference on the subject will be held at Tehran University Monday afternoon.

In an interview published in the daily ETTELA'AT Sunday Emami said parties should also not establish any contact or exchange information with foreign embassies, governments and parties if it violated the interests of the Islamic Republic.

They must also not receive funds from abroad, limit other people's freedom, accuse or insult or spread rumours, attempt to create or increase tension, break Islamic rules, spread anti-Islamic propaganda or publications, or hide arms and weapons.

Parties found violating any of the above would first be given a warning and if the violation was repeated they would face suspension and finally the judiciary would be asked to dissolve the offending party.

The parties should provide details of their aims and views on political, economic, and social issues in their proposed working charter and "spell out how they intend to reach those aims," Emami said.

The details would be studied by a special commission formed of representatives of the General Prosecutor's Office, the Supreme Judicial Council, the Interior Ministry, and the Majlis.

The commission will announce its decision to accept or reject each application within a maximum of three months or else the party under consideration would automatically have to be given a permit by the Interior Ministry.

On the other hand if a party had a complaint against the commission's decisions it could file a suit at the court for administrative violations.

Interior Ministry Expects Approval for Elections

LD2612105388 Tehran IRNA in English 1040 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 26, IRNA—More than 300,000 village, district, town and provincial councillors will be elected next spring in Iran's first council elections, if the plan receives final approval.

"The Interior Ministry has the means to hold the elections early next year (starts March'89) and we have firm a intention to carry it out but we are waiting for approval," the Interior Ministry's director for social affairs told IRNA Monday.

Hoseyn Malek Ahmadi said the plan had been proposed to the heads of three branches of state and ministry's officials were scheduled to meet them soon to explain the preparations.

In any case a decision had to be taken soon since elections prior or after early spring would be difficult to carry out. In winter ballot boxes would not reach many rural areas in the mountainous regions and later there was the presidential elections, he added.

The ministry is hoping for a date in the month of Ordibesht (21 April-21 May).

Council elections was proposed last year but was postponed because of the war.

There are currently 30,000 village councils which operate under the supervision of the Construction Jihad Ministry.

Tehran University Seminar on Political Parties

LD2612155388 Tehran IRNA in English 1540 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 26, IRNA—If the law on political parties is not implemented properly it would lead to "chaos or dictatorship" but officials are determined to promote greater freedom and political expression an Interior Ministry official stressed Monday.

"We honestly do believe in freedom because we are Muslims," said Deputy Interior Minister Dr Mohammad Sadr.

He was answering questions, along with Majlis Deputies Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abdol Vahed Musavi-Lari and Mohammad Asgharzadeh, from students packed in Tehran University's law and political science hall.

"Parties can prevent apathy," Sadr, who is in charge of political affairs, said.

"We had issues such as anti-revolutionaries, the war and American plots, but as they fade away in time the presence of people in the political scene may reduce and parties can create a lively atmosphere."

As of Saturday those wishing to form political parties can apply to the Interior Ministry in the capital or branches throughout the country.

Members of the shah's SAVAK secret service, former ministers and officials of the Pahlavi regime cannot form political groups or participate in them and new parties must pledge loyalty to the Islamic Republic's Constitution.

Asghar-Zadeh, one of the two Majlis representatives in the five-member commission that would decide on applicaitons, said Iran's negative experience with political parties in the past should not prejudice current views on future political activity.

"Personally," he emphasized, "I have given up trying political action without the existence of parties. The role which parties can play in preserving the health of the society and increasing the peoples awareness is undeniable."

Parties did not have to be in complete agreement with the leader of the Islamic Republic, Musavi Lari believed.

"My personal understanding is that organizations and groups who do not agree with some of the theological and social views of the contemporary leader will not be banned. They will be free. They are not bound to accept all the views of the leader," Lari said. He mentioned the Freedom Movement of former Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan as an example.

Asked if the Commission in Charge of Political Parties would approve the Freedom Movement's application, Asgharzadeh said: "I cannot predict right now what the commission will decide. It will depend on their charter which has to conform with the law."

"There has been an unconscious fear of political parties. It is dangerous for us to judge what's going to happen in the future (based on the past). The society must accept differences of views. The people must understand that it is good for us," he said.

"The existence of parties will give a chance for expression to those who have felt they should not express their views and be quiet. A sort of what I call 'divine self-censorship'."

Asked whether if he thought groups with communist ideologies would be allowed to operate officially, Musavi-Lari said organizations that did not believe in God would automatically disqualify themselves.

"Communist parties lack the first condition set by law because they don't believe in the (Islamic principles of the) Constitution. But we are not against their views and the state will not interfere because of their beliefs."

He said he was not aware whether the Islamic Republic Party which was the dominant political organization after the 1979 revolution would resurface.

The party was voluntarily dissolved by its leaders President 'Ali Khamene'i and Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani two years ago during which the country has been without active political parties.

Pakistan

Bhutto Says Government Cannot Be 'Intimidated'

BK2512154288 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto has said that the Constitution guarantees the safety of the country's foundations and the protection of the rights of people of various provinces. She was speaking at a reception in her honor at the Governor's House in Lahore this evening which was hosted by Punjab Governor Tikka Khan.

She referred to the dissolution of the Baluchistan Assembly and said the president and herself were not told anything prior to this action. The prime minister added that she is being criticized following the dissolution of the Baluchistan Assembly and this is regrettable.

She said her government does not believe in dissolving assemblies. We believe that those who had come to the assemblies after being elected have to discharge their duties of representing their voters. The prime minister said if a situation arises where an assembly is unsuccessful in carrying out its duties, the People's Party will go back to the people and confide in them.

Ms Benazir Bhutto said she appreciated the Punjab chief minister's gesture of welcoming her at the airport. She said there may be political differences, but we have to work together with honor within the framework of relations between the center and the provinces in accordance with the Constitution.

The prime minister declared that the environment of confrontation is ending in the country. She said the Pakistan People's Party neither wants confrontation, nor has it created the situation of confrontation. She said that if we can talk to the SAARC leaders then we should be able to meet with our own people.

However, she added that we will meet and talk with dignity, keeping the people's interests in mind. If somebody thinks we can be cowed, then they should know that we cannot be threatened or intimidated. She said we believe in the people's power and we will walk with the people.

Earlier, Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto was given a very warm welcome on her arrival in Lahore on a visit to the Punjab capital. This is her first visit to Lahore after assuming the office of prime minister. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Reviews Law, Order Situation

BK2612112488 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Text] The Federal Cabinet which met in Lahore today reviewed the law and order situation in the country and took a number of decisions for its further improvement. The prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, presided.

The Cabinet took various decisions to refurbish the law and order agencies so that they could act more effectively and objectively.

The prime minister also gave clear instructions to ensure that no one was disenfranchised for want of identity card. All steps should be taken to verify that this was meticulously followed.

The Cabinet also reviewed the wheat situation in the country. Since the last wheat crop was damaged in the Punjab by floods, arrangements have been made to import 2.25 million tons of wheat. The government will also continue with the liberal policy of releasing wheat from its godowns [warehouses] at fixed price.

Punjab Chief Minister on Talks With Bhutto

BK2712070088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 Dec 88

[Text] Punjab Chief Minister Mr Nawaz Sharif has said that as a result of his meeting with Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto in Lahore yesterday, the Center and the province will cooperate with each other. He told newsmen in Lahore last night that the two sides will meet again whenever there is a need to do so.

Press Note on Attempt To Sabotage Bhutto Visit

BK2712065888 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 Dec 88

[Text] A press note issued by the Interior Ministry says a well-planned conspiracy to inflict loss of life and create chaos and disturbances during Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto's visit to Punjab was foiled because of the alertness of a guard of the Airport Security Force.

The security force guard recovered an explosive device in a flowerpot which could have been activated by striking a match. The press note adds that the Interior Ministry carried out an investigation on the spot. The ammunition expert's report confirms that the device was highly explosive and the detonator was attached to a safety fuse.

It is clear that the saboteurs had bypassed security checks, but after seeing a large number of people they panicked and fled leaving behind the explosive device. (?Although) the quantity of explosive material in the device was not enough to cause loss of human life, it would have definitely caused chaos and a stampede.

Moreover, reports of the explosion would have greatly destabilized the law and order situation in Lahore and other cities.

The federal government has taken strict notice of the shortcomings and carelessness in security arrangements during the prime minister's visit and will take stern action against persons guilty of negligence in security arrangements for the prime minister. An investigation has been ordered into the incident.

Bhutto Addresses Media on National Issues

BK2612164688 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Text] The prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, has reaffirmed her government's resolve to bring about national reconciliation, cohesion, and consensus between all the provinces and social justice to the people. She was speaking at a luncheon given in her honor by the Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors [CPNE] in Lahore today.

She said the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] brings a new approach for solution of problems of the people and it is committed to removing the scars left by the martial law dictatorship and unrepresentative government in the shape of ethnic, linguistic, and sectarian divisions of society.

In a wide-ranging speech, the prime minister referred to the brutalization of society during the martial law regime and incarceration of people including the People's Party itself by military courts.

She said political parties, which play a unifying role between the people, were not allowed to work and tendencies towards fragmentation and secessionism took roots in the country.

Ms Benazir Bhutto said the first elected prime minister [Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto] who had salvaged the country after the 1971 catastrophe was hanged on political grounds. Justice was denied to the people giving rise to despair. An artificial culture and value system was promoted in which economic rewards, social prestige and political importance became the ambition for a class of people.

She called on the newspapers to cooperate with the government in healing the wounds in our social fabric and recreating national awareness. The prime minister said a national information policy, which was on the anvil, would be based on the creation of national identity and national thinking. She said her government would never interfere in the working of the press.

She, however, suggested the creation of a forum by the CPNE which the government can approach in deliberate cases of distortion of facts or where a certain pattern was found to be emerging. She said the official media has already been given freedom and mention was being made of opposition for the first time.

The prime minister said the government was examining ways for disinvesting National Press Trust newspapers in such a manner as to benefit the working journalists.

The prime minister said her reference to selective rigging in some constituencies [in the general elections] was political talk which should have been responded to politically and not by whipping up emotions. She said they could differ with each other on every thing, but not where the national interest of the federation was involved.

Referring to the dissolution of the Baluchistan Assembly, she reiterated that the step had been taken by the provincial governor and her government was not party

to it. The question of Baluchistan budget has been referred to the Supreme Court which can take notice of the dissolution if it wants. The question can also be raised before a court of law and other aggrieved party.

About economy, the prime minister said her government would not allow at any cost deficit financing or monetary expansion which results in price rise of essential items placing an additional burden on the common man.

Referring to Kashmir issue, she emphasized that it has to be solved if there was to be durable peace in the subcontinent.

Referring to the country's nuclear program, she said Pakistan would have become a nuclear power in December 1977, if the government of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, shaheed [martyr], had not been toppled.

Earlier, the president of CPNE hailed the new atmosphere of freedom in which the press has now an opportunity to work. He, however, called for removing the flaws in the new press law which had replaced the press and publications ordinance to further improve the atmosphere.

The prime minister has now returned to Rawalpindi.

Curfew Lifted Throughout Karachi 26 Dec

BK2612023888 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Text] In Karachi, curfew has been lifted from all parts of the city this morning.

Court To Hear Assembly Dissolution Case

BK2612112888 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Text] A division bench of Baluchistan High Court admitted in Quetta today for hearing a writ petition against dissolution of Baluchistan Assembly.

The writ filed by a member of the dissolved provincial, Mr Enayatullah Bazi, of the JUI [Jamiat-i Ulema-i Islam] will be heard by the full bench on the 30th of next month.

The court, however, rejected another petition by him praying to stay the election schedule for fresh polls of the assembly till the decision on the petition.

The division bench comprises the chief justice, Mr Justice Abdul Khalil Chaudhury, and Mr Justice Munnawar Ahmed Mirza.

Sri Lanka

Premadasa Orders Devolution of Powers to Northeast

BK2612031488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Text] The Sri Lankan prime minister and the president-elect, Mr R. Premadasa, has ordered immediate devolution of powers to the Northeastern Province under the Provincial Council Act.

According to the Northeastern Province chief minister, Mr Varadaraja Perumal, the prime minister issued the order at a meeting of the secretaries of nine ministries in Colombo on Saturday [24 December].

Mr Perumal, who was also present at the meeting, said Mr Premadasa was very receptive to the problems faced by the provincial ministry. He said Mr Premadasa directed the officials to issue the relevant orders regarding devolution of powers immediately.

State of Emergency Not To Be Reimposed

BK2312131488 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1237 GMT 23 Dec 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 23 Dec (LANKAPUVATH)—The Cabinet decided that the emergency now in force should not be re-imposed once it lapses. It was noted that under the Constitution, the proclamation extending the emergency would operate a mandatory summoning of the Parliament currently under dissolution to meet within 10 days of the proclamation, states a government communique issued today. [sentence as received]

The communique further states that it was decided that a re-summoning of Parliament should be avoided and that all officials should be instructed to examine the cases of all persons currently detained under the emergency regulations and to release all other than those who are liable to be kept in custody under normal laws, to take all necessary steps to regularise under the normal law orders and action taken under the emergency regulations. These steps would have to be taken well before the date on which the emergency is allowed to lapse.

12 Sinhalese Killed in Southern Province

BK2612065688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Text] Twelve Sinhalese were killed in group clashes in the Southern Province of Sri Lanka during the last 48 hours. The clashes took place in Hakmana, (Balakayala), and (Akeeras).

Some houses of Tamil-speaking people were burnt in an attack on a tea estate, 100 km northeast from Colombo. The attack was carried out by suspected JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna—People's Liberation Front] extremists.